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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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75¢

DPW official, 5 others arrested

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» DPW truck impounded after K-9 search

A Department of Public Works official was arrested for alleged possession of methamphetamine or "ice" while five others were apprehended for trafficking of "ice" in separate operations against illegal drugs by the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force and Drug Enforcement Administration.

DPW Road and Grounds director Vicente Babauta Castro, 49, was served with an arrest warrant in San Roque for possession of a controlled substance.

When Castro was allegedly found in possession of "ice" last Oct. 18 in Chalan Piao,

See DPW on Page 4

Many step up to aid woman

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Several agencies and organizations have stepped forward in response to Rita Sablan's plea for help.

Last week, the 42-year-old woman with disability told *Saipan Tribune* that she has long been asking for help from multiple government and private agencies but with no luck.

On Monday, in a follow-up visit, *Saipan Tribune* learned that the Saipan Mayor's Office, the Division of Youth Services, the Salvation Army

See MANY on Page 4

I Love Saipan frets about future

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

A store that has become known as the go-to place for souvenirs is facing an uncertain future following U.S. Citizenship Immigration Services' announcement that it would be cutting 3,000 worker slots from the foreign worker program.

That reduction would have a very negative impact on the operations of I Love Saipan, according to company president Alex Youn, who said that 26 percent of their work-

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"I expect our gross sales to drop if we don't have the skilled workers. If our gross sales will drop, it will affect operations and eventually profit," said I Love Saipan president Alex Youn.

BEA CABRERA

RELATED NEWS
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NEW CUC BOARD
The newly constituted Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board held its first official meeting yesterday at the CUC office in Dandan. Board members chose Ignacio Perez as the new board chair during yesterday's meeting.

BEA CABRERA

See story on Page 4

Supreme Court allows full enforcement of Trump travel ban

By MARK SHERMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court on Monday allowed the Trump administration to fully enforce a ban on travel to the United States by residents of six mostly Muslim countries.

This is not a final ruling on the travel ban: Challenges to the policy are winding through the federal courts, and the justices themselves ultimately are expected to rule on its legality.

But the action indicates that the high court might eventually approve the latest version of the ban, announced by President Donald Trump in September. Lower courts have continued to find problems with the policy.

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President Donald Trump scales back two sprawling national monuments in Utah.
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Ed's Bonita Park highlights the beauty and serenity of the outdoors.
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NOTICE TO EMPLOYERS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: The CNMI Department of Labor ("DOL") announces that Employers must comply with the following Employment Rules and Regulations ("Regulations"). Failure to comply with these Regulations may cause an employer to be charged with a Notice of Violation by the Department of Labor (DOL), which could result in fines and other sanctions after a due process hearing in the Administrative Hearing Office. Failure to comply with these Regulations could also cause an employer to be denied a Certificate of Good Standing.

1. **Post Job Vacancy Announcements on DOL's Website.**

DOL Regulations require employers who are hiring or renewing CW-1 status workers on a full-time basis to post job vacancy announcements on the Department's website (www.marianaslabor.net). See DOL Regulations at the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code ("NMIAC") § 80-20.1-225(a).

No waiver is available with respect to this job vacancy announcement requirement. Regs. at NMIAC § 80-20.1-225(e).

2. **File Quarterly Total Workforce Listings.**

DOL Regulations require employers to submit information ***on a quarterly basis*** regarding "the number and classification of employees for whom wages were paid during the quarter." [Regs. at NMIAC § 80-20.1-505 et seq.] The Department requires employers to submit this information in a document called the "Total Workforce Listing."

Employers are required to file Total Workforce Listings on a quarterly basis, due on the last day of the month following the quarter:

First Quarter (January–March)...due on April 30
2nd Quarter (April – June)……..due on July 31
3rd Quarter (July – September)…due on October 31
4th Quarter (Oct. – December)….due on January 31

ATTENTION: The Total Workforce Listing for the 4th Quarter of 2017 is due on January 31, 2018.

3. **File Annual Workforce Plan or Updated Existing Plan.**

DOL Regulations require all employers who employ nonimmigrant aliens (e.g., CW-1 status employees) to file an updated Workforce Plan every 12 months. Regs. at NMIAC § 80-20.1-510.

The Workforce Plan form is available on the DOL website (www.marianaslabor.net/forms).

The objective of the Workforce Plan is to increase the percentage of U.S. citizens, U.S. permanent residents and/or CNMI permanent residents in the workforce of the employer. The plan shall include a timetable for accomplishing the replacement of nonimmigrant aliens with qualified citizens, U.S. permanent residents and/or CNMI permanent residents. Regs. at NMIAC § 80-20.1-510(a-b). For description of exemptions and loss of exemptions to workforce plan, refer to Regs. at NMIAC § 80-20.1-510, para (d) 1-3".

4. **Workforce Participation – Minimum Percentage.**

DOL Regulations and statutes [3 CMC § 4525(a)] require all employers to maintain a full-time workforce in which a minimum of thirty percent (30%) of the full-time employees are U.S. citizens, CNMI permanent residents and/or U.S. permanent residents. 3 CMC § 4525(a) and Regs. at NMIAC § 80-20.1-210(c)(3).

Failure to maintain a minimum percentage of 30% may result in a Notice of Violation filed against the employer.

Local

Hillbroom bail reduced to $25K cash

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Supreme Court of the Republic of Palau Trial Division reduced Thursday last week the $250,000 cash bail that was earlier imposed on Junior Larry Hillbroom to just $25,000.

Upon posting the cash bond, Hillbroom shall be confined to his family home in Meyuns, said Associate Justice Lourdes F. Materne in her order.

Hillbroom may visit his counsel only after the court has been told about it and that an escort is secured for him.

Hillbroom is allowed to attend a court-ordered mediation in a civil action but he is not allowed to leave Palau without the court's permission.

Materne barred Hillbroom from any contact with drug offenders and he will also be subjected to random drug testing at his own expense.

Materne issued the order after a hearing last Thursday on the Palau government's motions to revoke Hillbroom's bond, to try cases together, and the defendant's motion to produce discovery.

The Palau government agreed to the bail reduction.

Rachel A. Dimitruk, counsel for Hillbroom, submitted a copy of Materne's order to the U.S. District Court for the NMI last Friday.

Hillbroom was arrested last October in Palau for allegedly trafficking in methamphetamine or "ice."

The information, which was filed by the Palau Office of the Attorney General last Oct. 6, charged Hillbroom with two counts of trafficking a controlled substance.

According to the charges, Hillbroom delivered or possessed with intent to deliver methamphetamine on April 11 and May 9, 2017.

Associate Justice Materne earlier ordered bail for $250,000 cash or $500,000 surety.

The trial of Hillbroom in connection with his previous arrest in 2016 pertaining to an "ice" trafficking case was supposed to commence in January 2018.

Hillbroom was released from jail last August after serving a 60-day prison sentence in Palau for pleading guilty to an escape charge.

Last July, attorney Barry Israel expressed doubt how Hillbroom's lawsuit in the CNMI federal court can proceed, given Hillbroom's 60-day prison term and a pending drug case in Palau.

Hillbroom filed in the CNMI a legal malpractice suit against his former counsel, Israel and Guam lawyer David J. Lujan.

Early this year, Hillbroom pleaded guilty to a lesser included offense of escape in the second degree before the Supreme Court of the Palau Trial Division and was slapped with a 60-day prison term.

Hillbroom is one of the four DNA-proven children of the late business tycoon and DHL co-founder Larry Lee Hillblom. He was recaptured in Palau hours after he escaped from police's custody on Feb. 9, 2016, just a few hours after he was arrested over the seizure of $160,000 worth of methamphetamine or "ice."

Hillbroom's name is spelled differently from DHL co-founder Hillblom.

‘A threat to the construction industry’

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

GPPC Inc. is one of the biggest construction companies here, yet even it is struggling to stay afloat when it comes to its workforce. The steep cuts made to the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program, of which most of the CNMI’s foreign workers fall, is only expected to worsen that.

According to GPPC construction manager Moises Tagle Jr., the impact of the cuts could result in the company’s shutdown on Saipan.

Tagle said that many of their workers who are categorized as skilled are mainly contract workers.

Many of these skilled workers—like heavy equipment operators and equipment operators, etc.—may be forced to leave the CNMI if they fail to obtain the required work visas. If that happens, there will be no other choice but for the company to shut down.

“We’re just going to leave all the equipment on the job site because there will be no one to operate them,” he said.

Tagle said that GPPC has been trying to hire more resident workers to cushion the blow if contract workers leave, but there aren’t that many residents who meet the qualification as skilled workers.

“The reality right now is that there is no one applying as skilled workers or as operators to fill the need,” he said.

According to Tagle, possibly 30 percent of his skilled construction workers are foreign workers.

The CW-1 cut has, in fact, already started taking its toll on many of GPPC’s contract workers. Tagle has observed that many of the foreign workers under his management are losing focus and drive when it comes to work because they fear the day when they may be required to pack up and leave.

That has not only been felt by the workers, but by the GPPC management as well, because they had to pull out from many projects and commitments made before the 3,000-slot cut was implemented.

“We already foresee that we won’t have the manpower to accommodate upcoming projects, so we just terminated the commitments made to several private and some public agencies,” he said.

There is a possibility of processing skilled workers under the H-2 visa program, Tagle said, but he is not too certain how long that would take and if this would still require workers to leave.

When asked if the 3,000-slot cut could threaten the development of the Commonwealth, Tagle said that he does not know about other aspects of the islands, but when it comes down to construction development, there will definitely be a large impact.

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Saipan to join global candle lighting

On Sunday, Dec. 10, the Compassionate Friends of Saipan will participate in an annual worldwide event designed to honor the memories of all children, grandchildren and siblings who have died.

The Saipan chapter is joining with hundreds of organized memorial services around the world for the 21st annual Worldwide Candle Lighting, an event now believed to be the largest mass candle lighting in the world.

The local candle lighting will be part of a special event beginning 6:45pm at Minachom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe and will feature music, candle lighting and saying of loved one’s names.

Candles are first lit at 7pm, local time, just west of the international date line. As candles burn down in one-time zone, they are lighted in the next, creating a 24-hour wave of light as the observance continues around the world.

To contact the Compassionate Friends of Saipan, call Donna Krum (783-1900) or Maggie George (483-6825) or visit the chapter’s Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/TCF-Saipan/. For more information about the national organization, call 877-969-0010 or visit TCF’s national website, www.compassionatefriends.org. The Compassionate Friends has a presence in at least 30 countries and is the world’s largest self-help bereavement organization. ***(PR)***

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Perez is new CUC board chair

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ignacio Perez was elected Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board chairman at the first official meeting of the newly reconstituted board yesterday.

He won the chairmanship over co-nominee, Miranda V. Manglona.

The rest of the elected board officers are: Weston Deleon Guerrero as vice chairman, Matthew Holley as secretary, and Jovita Paulino as treasurer.

Perez, a veteran CUC board member, is the only remaining member from the previous board that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres had dissolved in July due to power engine procurement issues.

According to Perez, there will be a lot of difference between the previous and current board when it comes to management.

"Whether I was voted chairman of the board or not, I drafted a plan and will introduce it to the board and see what we can do together about it. There won't be specifics for now because it will be laid out in the coming board meeting but it will be better than the past," he said.

Perez said that CUC's planned purchase of a power engine has not been scrapped. "Every CUC project is considered a priority but the emergency priority of the board is to execute the emergency status that [required] us to purchase a 10-megawatt engine," he said.

Aside from CUC, Perez is also the incumbent chairman of the Commonwealth Development Authority and Northern Marianas Housing Corp. board.

According to CUC legal counsel Jim Sirok, the situation where Perez chairs three organizations poses no conflict because being an officer of one organization and another "does not restrict him nor prohibit him from being an officer of this board, or hold any elected officer position."

"Conflict will only come if there is an issue between CUC and CDA. Then whoever has a conflict, whether as a chair or non-chair, he would then have to disclose the conflict and abstain from voting," Sirok added.

CUC executive director Gary Camacho said he and his staff look forward to working with the new board.

"The beginning of the meeting was wonderful and the board seems very focused on assisting us in moving forward and servicing the community."

"As executive director, I am here to support the board in what they want and the direction that they feel that [CUC] must go. We are looking forward to working with the board and making it a better corporation for consumers," he added.

Camacho has a list of suggestions to propose to the board.

"[Making] our utility [into] a modern one has always been a driver for me, such as introducing the advanced metering infrastructure. …Second is applying a larger scale solar systems to assist in reducing [our] dependency on fossil fuels and to trim down our daily peak demands using solar," he added.

TRAVEL

From Page 1

White House spokesman Hogan Gidley said the White House is "not surprised by today's Supreme Court decision permitting immediate enforcement of the President's proclamation limiting travel from countries presenting heightened risks of terrorism."

Opponents of this and previous versions of the ban say they show a bias against Muslims. They say that was reinforced most recently by Trump's retweets of anti-Muslim videos.

"President Trump's anti-Muslim prejudice is no secret. He has repeatedly confirmed it, including just last week on Twitter. It's unfortunate that the full ban can move forward for now, but this order does not address the merits of our claims," said Omar Jadwat, director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Immigrants' Rights Project. The ACLU is representing some opponents of the ban.

Just two justices, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor, noted their disagreement with court orders allowing the latest policy to take full effect.

The new policy is not expected to cause the chaos that ensued at airports when Trump rolled out his first ban without warning in January.

The ban applies to travelers from Chad, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Yemen. Lower courts had said people from those nations with a claim of a "bona fide" relationship with someone in the United States could not be kept out of the country. Grandparents, cousins and other relatives were among those courts said could not be excluded.

The courts were borrowing language the Supreme Court itself came up with last summer to allow partial enforcement of an earlier version of the ban.

Now, those relationships will no longer provide a blanket exemption from the ban, although visa officials can make exceptions on a case-by-case basis.

The justices offered no explanation for their order, but the administration had said that blocking the full ban was causing "irreparable harm" because the policy is based on legitimate national security and foreign policy concerns.

FUTURE

From Page 1

ers are holders of visas under the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program. Those visas are also called CW-1 permits.

"I was expecting the reduction because that is the law but the enormous number of reduction…was a surprise," he said.

Youn said many of these CW workers have visas that expired last November or are expiring this December.

"USCIS was not processing our papers because the CW cap was still unknown at the time of our renewal. Now that the reduction is out, they will start processing and I'm not sure if we are going to get into that new cap," he said. "I'm worried because of the uncertainty and these workers hold valuable positions in the company."

Many of the CW-1 visa holders employed at I Love Saipan's seven stores are language skilled workers and are employed as sales associates and cashiers.

"It's going to be hard to find language skilled workers immediately to try to do sales. We rely on them to provide personal service to our customers and that is one of the things that our customers like about the stores—that there is someone here who can talk to them and help them pick out items they need," Youn said.

"When a customer wants to know more about a product, for example our vitamins, our language skilled workers make them understand what it is good for. Our sales activities rely on our language skilled workers. If we don't have them, customers would just come in and rely on their own," he added.

Hundreds of customers from China, Korea, and Japan go to their stores everyday and Youn said the language skilled workers are proficient in these languages.

"Without our language skilled workers, we [may have to] change sales strategy and rely on 'self explanatory' [techniques in explaining] the products or items in the store. …I expect our gross sales to drop if we don't have the [language] skilled workers. If our gross sales will drop, it will affect operations and eventually profit," he added.

Youn said they have been hiring U.S. citizens—jobs in the company are always available—but the lack of skill has always been an issue.

"The CNMI is a tourism-driven economy. There are many opportunities, especially if you are multilingual but we don't have a good language program to fill in these positions. For construction, we have [the Northern Marianas Technical Institute] doing its part, but in the other parts of the tourism industry, it's tough. Language courses in schools will be a good investment for the government since we expect that there will be zero foreign workers come 2019," he said.

According to Youn, he supports the importance the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in giving to foreign workers.

"I'm glad that the governor has a different position on how his administration looks at CWs than past governments. I know it's already done but if only the past governments have the same vision when the law was drafted in 2008, then we would not have this serious problem right now," he said.

Youn hopes that CW workers who have been working in the CNMI for over 10 years and those who have U.S. citizen children would be granted some type of visa that would at least give them CNMI residency and be allowed to work without having to worry about renewing visas every year.

MANY

From Page 1

NMI Chapter, Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc., and a representative from the Governor's Office have visited her three days after her story came out.

The path leading toward Sablan's home has been paved with coral by the mayor's office to ensure her safety when her husband, Jack Cepeda, pushes her wheelchair toward their home.

Sablan said they were also provided a water tank, courtesy of the mayor's office, since her home has been without water and power for years.

Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that the Salvation Army and DYS had visited her over the weekend and brought food and a few necessities.

She said volunteers from the Salvation Army would also be coming by to deliver food to Sablan and her husband.

NMPASI also came out to visit Sablan and her husband last week to see if they could assist her in any way.

When Sablan and Cepeda were informed that NMHC is still awaiting evidence that proves Sablan was hospitalized when an eligibility notice was sent to her, Cepeda countered that he personally delivered Sablan's medical documents to NMHC by foot in July this year when they first requested for evidence that she had been hospitalized.

"We gave them all the evidence they asked for. I don't know what else they want," said Sablan.

DPW

From Page 1

officers also had a K-9 dog search a Nissan Frontier truck that was issued to Castro and had a DPW logo. The truck was later impounded, according to court documents.

Arrested for "ice" trafficking were Paul Anthony Lizama, 29; Raymond Deleon Guerrero King, 52; John Benavente Reyes Jr., 39; Sheng Qui Yin, 45; and Michael Doria Dahil, 41.

All six were brought to the Superior Court yesterday for bail hearings. A $100,000 cash bail was imposed on each of the defendants.

Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio heard the case against all, except for Yin, who was taken before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo. Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government in all cases. Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit was appointed as counsel for all defendants.

Preliminary hearing for Castro will be on Dec. 14, while the remaining defendants will have theirs on Dec. 17.

The Department of Public Safety received an anonymous 911 call last Oct. 18 at 10:09am about a drug-dealing activity involving a DPW Nissan Frontier truck in Chalan Piao. Two responding police officers arrived at the house and saw the truck parked beside a car. The officers approached Castro and another man, who were both standing near the vehicles. The officers then interviewed Castro and the other man, who owns the house. *Saipan Tribune* opted to withhold the name of the other man as he has not been arrested yet.

Castro allegedly told the officer that he was in the area to check on a sewer drainage and because of calls about fallen trees. The officer, however, noticed that Castro appeared nervous. With Castro's consent, the two officers, backed by other officers and a DPS dog, searched the truck.

Castro allegedly told the officers to go ahead and search the truck, but threatened to go after them if they fail to find anything in the vehicle.

During the K-9 sweep of the truck, an officer saw Castro throw something to the ground on the side of the house, then walk away. The officers checked the object that Castro had tossed and found it was a baggie containing approximately 0.36 gross grams of a crystalline substance. The substance allegedly tested presumptive positive for "ice."

Castro was arrested and the truck was impounded.

In an interview with Castro at the Department of Corrections the following day, Oct. 19, Castro allegedly admitted to buying "ice" from a man at a residence in Kannat Tabla that same day he was arrested.

Castro allegedly said he proceeded to the Chalan Piao house using his truck, then smoked "ice" with the other person.

In Lizama's case, the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force and Drug Enforcement Administration looked into reports last Nov. 7 that Lizama, also known as Poots, was selling drugs.

A "cooperating source" allegedly managed to buy from Lizama $150 and $180 worth of "ice" during "buy-walk" operations in Chalan Kanoa last Nov. 7 and 21, respectively.

In King's case, a "cooperating source" allegedly bought from King $180 worth of "ice" and $180 more worth of "ice" during "buy-walk" operations in Chalan Kanoa last Nov. 27 and 28.

In Reyes' case, a "cooperating defendant" was able to purchase from Reyes $100 worth of "ice" during a "buy-walk" operation at the parking lot of a poker arcade in Garapan on March 18, 2016.

The CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force arrested Reyes last Oct. 24 because of that alleged transaction, but he agreed to be a confidential informant and was released, subject to certain conditions. His refusal to cooperate with authorities led to his re-arrest in As Lito.

In Yin's case, CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force and CNMI Customs Enforcement Unit conducted a controlled drug "buy-bust" operation last Saturday involving Yin's alleged drug activities.

A "cooperating defendant" allegedly purchased from Yin $2,600 worth of "ice." After the alleged deal, Yin, also known as Friend, left aboard a white Toyota Prius, but task force operatives followed him and stopped the car in Lower Dandan.

In Dahil's case, a "cooperating source" managed to buy from Dahil $200 worth of "ice" and $50 worth of "ice" during "buy-walk" operations in Chalan Kanoa last Oct. 30 and Nov. 7, respectively.

MVA: Filmfest turns spotlight on Marianas

This week's Marianas International Film Festival is a welcome spotlight on the Marianas.

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, which is a sponsor of the festival, industry representatives of high caliber from across the globe will be joining the event.

"The film festival organizers are delivering on their promise to turn the spotlight on the Marianas with the hosting of the Marianas International Film Festival," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "The MVA brings in hundreds of media representatives to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota each year for various coverage, and many of them are amazed at how beautiful our islands are. The film festival will magnify that global exposure and put the Marianas on the map for some top industry movers and shakers."

Concepcion

The festival is from Dec. 6 to Dec. 8. It will have its opening ceremony and banquet today, Dec. 6, at the Aqua Resort Club and will also include a Young Director Supporting Programme and Film Industry Forum.

The public is invited to join the free screening of films at the Regal Saipan Megaplex 7 on Thursday, Dec. 7, from 10am to 10pm.

Tickets are free and available upon entry, subject to seat availability. Several submissions have been made for the local film category, for which special awards will be given. Films to be screened include *Oral Documentary: Chew, We Drank Our Tears, The Final Redemption, Sunshine That Can Move Mountains, Country Far Away, Relocate, Doctor's Mind, This Beautiful Fantastic, Taxi Driver, Canola, Old Bicycle, The Prison, Merry Christmas Mr. Mo, 3904 Feet,* and *Six Years, Six Days*.

On Friday, Dec. 8, the red carpet show and awards ceremony will be held at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel in Garapan, followed by dinner at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, and an after-party back at Imperial Pacific.

A host of high profile Hollywood, Hong Kong, Korea, China, and Taiwan film industry players are expected to arrive. These movie industry bigwigs have been named jury members to the MIFF. Named MIFF jury president is Hong Kong director and writer Alex Law K.Y. His most notable works include *Painted Faces*, *An Autumn's Tale*, and *Echoes Of The Rainbow* that have won him the Golden Horse awards at the Hong Kong Film Awards, among others.

The MIFF is hosted by Saipan Film Society, LCC and is sponsored by Imperial Pacific International Ltd. and Shenzhen Golden Rose Pictures Corp.,on in partnership with MVA and IT&E.

For more information, visit www.marianasiff.com. ***(PR)***

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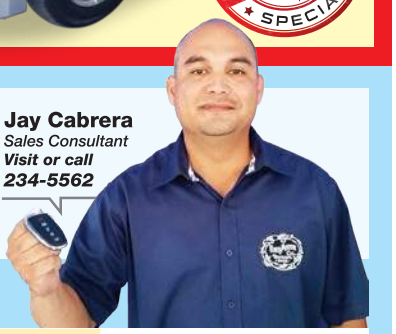
Jay Cabrera
Sales Consultant
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234-5562

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2012 KIA SEDONA LX
Stk# C6507846
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 3.5 Liter DOHC
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 45060
Color: GRAY
$11,995

2015 KIA RIO LX
Stk# F6526166
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 1.6 L
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 24050
Color: SILVER
$12,295

2016 KIA FORTE LX
Stk# G5584499
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 1.8 L
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 28395
Color: SILVER
$12,995

2015 KIA SOUL LX
Stk# F7225726
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 1.6 L
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 26736
Color: BLUE
$13,695
WILL NEED NEW TIRES

2013 FORD ESCAPE
Stk# DUC75188
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 2.5 Liter Ti-VCT
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 24333
Color: BLUE
$14,495

2014 Honda Civic LX
Stk# EE065539
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 1.8 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 40822
Color: White
$14,495
SOLD

2015 Kia Forte EX
Stk# F5398749
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 2.0 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 3865
Color: Metal Stream
$15,895

2012 Hyundai Tuscon GLS AWD
Stk# CU527659
Drivetrain: AWD
Engine: 2.4 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 23620
Color: Mercury Blue
$15,995
SOLD

2016 Kia Sportage LX
Stk# G7855268
Drivetrain: AWD
Engine: 2.4 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 6677
Color: Silver
$19,795

2014 Ford Escape SE
Stk#EUB67717
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 1.6 Liter Ecoboost
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 12644
Color: Ruby Red
$19,995

2015 Nissan ALTIMA S
Stk# FC469947
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 2.5 L
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 26
Color: WHITE
$20,995

2016 Kia Sportage EX
Stk# G7840712
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 2.4 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 19778
Color: Black
$21,795

2017 Kia Sportage LX
Stk# H71962822
Drivetrain: AWD
Engine: 2.4 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 3787
Color: Clear White
$22,995

2015 Nissan Pathfinder S
Stk# FC610104
Drivetrain: 4WD
Engine: 3.5 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 29560
Color: Glacier White
$24,495
SOLD

2013 Nissan Maxima SV Sport
Stk# DC816012
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 3.5 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 20568
Color: Brilliant Silver
$24,995

2014 Nissan Murano SL
Stk# EW411794
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 3.5 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 26886
Color: Gun Metallic
$24,995
SOLD

2010 Ford F150 SVT Raptor
Stk# AFD47403
Drivetrain: 4WD
Engine: 5.4 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 37860
Color: Molten Orange
$36,995
SOLD

2016 Ford F150 Super Crew Cab XL
Stk#GKD66328
Drivetrain: 4WD
Engine: 5.0 Liter V8
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 8477
Color: Oxford White
$42,995

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See dealer for details regarding the Joeten customer checklist. Some conditions apply.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500237, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 1 (670) 233-1857
Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856
Email: info@cnmicasinocommission.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: **November 22, 2017** Closing Date: **December 22, 2017**

The Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission") needs immediate recruitment for the following positions:

	POSITION	DIVISION	SALARY RANGE	ANNOUNCEMENT NO.
1.	**FINANCIAL AUDITOR**	Audit	$37,000 - $42,000	CCC-2017-**A**
2.	**COMPLIANCE AGENT**	Compliance	$32,000 - $37,000	CCC-2017-**B**
3.	**DEPUTY MANAGER**	Enforcement & Investigations	$44,000 - $49,000	CCC-2017-**C**
4.	**INVESTIGATIVE ANALYST**	Enforcement & Investigations	$30,000 - $35,000	CCC-2017-**D**
5.	**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER** – Procurement	Executive Office	$30,000 - $35,000	CCC-2017-**E**
6.	**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**	Executive Office	$29,000 - $34,000	CCC-2017-**F**
7.	**PERMIT & LICENSING CLERK**	Permit & Licensing	$15,800 - $19,800	CCC-2017-**G**

- **Salary:** Actual salary level will depend on the applicant's education, experience, and other related qualifications.
- **Location:** Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI").
- **Benefits:** Basic CNMI government employment fringe benefits.
- **Exempted Positions:** These positions are exempted from the CNMI Civil Service system per P.L. 18-56 & P.L.19-24.

Requirements:

A. Completed CNMI Government **Application for Employment** (OPM-03) - Original
B. **Resume** with accompanying educational and professional credentials & documentations
C. **Police Clearance** (within the last 3 months)
D. Copy of your Driver's License or other form of **Valid Identification with photo**

Education and training claimed under items 24 (A) through (H) of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Office of Personnel Management **Application for Employment** must be substantiated by an official school transcript, diploma, or certificate. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.

The Commonwealth Casino Commission is an equal employment opportunity employer. The CCC's EEO policy is to ensure that all employment decisions are made on a non-discriminatory basis, and without regard to sex, race, color, age, national origin, religion, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, political affiliation or belief, or any other status protected by applicable national, federal, state or local law. Please be informed that prior to a job offer, you are required to undergo a pre-employment drug test pursuant to the Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace Policy, Part V.C. of the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulations. The Casino Commission may also require additional criminal background checks and investigations if deemed necessary.

Application Forms can be picked up at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). For information on the **POSITION DESCRIPTION** and other requirements, please contact the HR Officer, Ms. Juanette LG. Sablan at 233-1857/58 or at **info@cnmicasinocommission.com.** Interested persons should submit their completed Employment Application Forms along with supporting documents to the **Commonwealth Casino Commission's Office at Springs Plaza (Unit #13 & #14), Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950.**

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST

Announcement # JVA17-05
Superior Court
SAIPAN

DUTIES: This position is under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge and the direct supervision of the Commonwealth Recorder or his/her designee. The employee performs work in accordance with established policies, practices, and court procedures. The following are required duties:

- Records documents presented for recording with the Commonwealth Recorder in Saipan;
- Certifies copies of birth and death certificates to Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) and marriage certificates to the general public;
- Assists members of the general public in completing affidavit forms for minor corrections to birth and death certificates;
- Assists on assessing fines, receives and accounts for monies, issues receipts, prepares deposit slips, and makes disbursements when ordered or directed;
- Assists whenever an assigned deputy clerk is not available to perform assigned duties such as providing clerical support to a judge or special judge in courtroom proceeding(s);
- Provides assistance to the Presiding Judge in areas involving administrative matters.
- Performing other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Must have a high school diploma or equivalent plus a minimum of two (2) year work experience in office clerical work and operate a computer, word processing, website operation skill and proficient in Microsoft Office. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances, a valid CNMI driver's license, and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary will be $20,000 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Human Resources
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

United Airlines named best overall frequent flyer program in the world

GUAM—For the 14th consecutive year, readers of *Global Traveler,* a monthly publication written exclusively for frequent business and luxury travelers, voted United's MileagePlus loyalty program the Best Overall Frequent Flyer Program in the world.

United has been recognized with this distinction every year since the inception of the GT Tested Reader Survey in 2004.

In the survey completed by frequent business and luxury travelers, United's MileagePlus program was also named the Best Frequent-Flyer Bonus Program for the fifth consecutive year.

The United MileagePlus Club Card from Chase was named Best Credit Card and Best Credit Card Rewards Program, both for the sixth consecutive year.

The United MileagePlus Explorer Card from Chase won for Best Frequent-Flyer Affinity Credit Card Redemption for the fifth consecutive year.

"What is especially exciting about these honors is that they are awarded by travelers, and therefore a testament to our commitment to providing MileagePlus members and credit card holders with the industry-leading experience," said Luc Bondar, United's vice president, Loyalty. "It is our goal to provide a loyalty program that recognizes and rewards all of our members while offering a breadth of valuable earning and redemption opportunities."

MileagePlus members earn award miles by flying United, United Express, Star Alliance airlines or other airline partners, and by purchasing products or services from partners around the globe. Members enjoy a variety of options for using those award miles, including to pay for travel, hotel stays, car rentals and merchandise.

Through MileagePlus Exclusives, members are able to use their miles on unique and memorable experiences with a VIP touch across the widest range of mileage levels. Recent examples of MileagePlus Exclusives include: an auction for parts of the airline's now retired iconic 747 fleet, dinner at world-renowned restaurants, and club level and luxury suites packages for a variety of sporting events.

Global Traveler also awarded United for Best International First Class Champagne for the Joseph Perrier Brut Cuvée Royale 2004.

Additionally this week, the United TravelBank Card from Chase was selected as the 2017 Mega Award winner for Excellence in Co-Brands at Mega Event 2017, a travel industry conference. ***(PR)***

IP&E

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FUELS MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

The position is responsible for performing maintenance, service, and repairs of equipment at Retail and Commercial Sites. Candidates should have knowledge in the maintenance field, possess excellent communication and organizational skills, and the ability to work flexible hours. Interested applicants must have five years of technical repairs and must be certified Level I-III with Gilbarco-VeederRoot Systems.

TERMINAL OPERATOR

This position is responsible for ensuring safe and efficient terminal operations of the terminal and dock through the implementation of Company policies, procedures, and assist depot management to achieve the business objectives of the company. Interested and qualified candidates should possess a minimum of 3 years' experience in petroleum terminal operations; excellent safety record; excellent interpersonal relations skills; knowledge of mathematic applications; ability to detect and manage hazards. Ability to work at heights without limitations or concerns. Requires moderate understanding of fuel properties and ability to work flexible hours.

Interested individuals who meet the above requirements should submit their resume no later than Friday, December 11,2017. Resumes may be submitted to the attention of IP&E Human Recourses Department via:

Office: Corner Puetto St. and Industrial Drive Commercial Port Saipan, MP 96950
Email: HumanResourceTeam@ipehq.com
Mail to: PMB 1009 Box 10000
Saipan, MP 96950

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18+ To Purchase
LOTTERY
Tickets available here: XO Supermarket, 99cent Supermarket, Twins Navy Hill, Sara Market, New Kagman Market, Lucky De Supermarket, Happy Market, Ming Yang Supermarket, Hanam Supermarket, Rising Supermarket, Friendly Mart or Twins Dan Dan
Results will be published on Saipan Tribune every Friday
For results, visit www.nmsalottery.com

Company touts robotics integration in meet-and-greet

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

"The goal is to augment and not automate."

These were the words of York Exponential CEO John McElligott at the meet-and-greet gathering initiated by the Commonwealth Development Authority on Monday, where the idea of integrating robotics in CNMI businesses is actually attainable.

"This is where industrial revolution meets community development but the goal is to augment and not automate the workforce. The idea is all humans and robots working together," he said.

"The idea of using technology to help people instead of pushing them away seem to resonate in the challenges that you are having and maybe it will make sense to show technology that we are not only developing as it is currently happening in a larger scale," McElligott added.

BEA CABRERA

York Exponential CEO John Mc Elligott and vice president David Rixter talk about robotics and how it can help a developing community such as the CNMI at the meet-and-greet gathering at the Commonwealth Development Authority Monday.

York Exponential is a company based in York, Pennsylvania and is leading the way in bringing advanced technologies to businesses. They promote robotics, which they call "cobots" as a service and integrate them into a company's human workforce.

In his example, McElligott said that in housekeeping for hotels, "probably the thing that will make most sense would be to have a robot do a part of that job that maybe before had five people doing the job. Now you only have two or three robots."

"There are certain complexities as robots are good at something that humans are not and vice versa, but now, the purpose is to augment and maybe make things a little bit easier and more time efficient," McElligott added.

York Exponential was invited to the islands by CDA, represented by office manager Oscar Camacho, to have the opportunity to exchange ideas and share knowledge of having this kind of technology in the CNMI.

"We see challenges more as opportunities to be ahead the game, rather to try and play catch up all the time. We need to be doing our own thing to set the CNMI apart," Camacho said.

McElligott said they will be going around Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to know more about the CNMI and see how his company can be of service.

"We need to learn more about the culture, the economy and especially the current issue which the CNMI is facing about the CWs. We want to have an additional solution and not create more tension to the discussion happening right now," he said.

"We would be talking to many people and businesses that we can because the key is embracing technology now because technology is only going to get better and it is not going to stop. Once you have you have a solid baseline and an ecosystem that can support it as the new technology come, you can just take it and use take it," he added.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW/COTA-18-IFB-004

CONSTRUCTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY (COTA) ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Construction of the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) Administrative Building and Maintenance Facility,** Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **December 6, 2017** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT BY THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION; BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH FTA FEDERAL CONTRACT CLAUSES AS APPLICABLE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **December 28, 2017 9:00 a.m.** local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **January 12 2018** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW/COTA-18-IFB-004"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time January 18, 2018.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, January 18, 2018**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **January 18, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **January 29, 2018.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, February 1, 2018.** However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on January 18, 2018.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245.** The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Three Hundred Sixty Five (365) calendar days for the Base Bid with an additional 35 calendar days for Bid Additive 1 and 30 calendar days for Bid Additive 2** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **Five Hundred (US$500.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA, Secretary of Public Works
ALFREDA P. CAMACHO, Special Assistant for Public Transportation
HERMAN S. SABLAN, Director of Procurement & Supply

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

If inebriated, call a driver!

The Department of Public Safety will implement the 4D Designated Drivers Program on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 8 and 9, from 10pm to 5am, and on Sunday, Dec. 10, from 2pm to 6pm. The number to call for the Designated Driver Program is 483-RIDE (7433) or 287-RIDE (7433). ***(PR)***

BOG's Guam and CNMI holiday schedule

Bank of Guam has the following holiday hours:

■ Friday, Dec. 8, 2017: All Guam and CNMI branches will be closed. The Customer Service Department will also be closed from 3pm to midnight.

■ Monday, Dec. 25, 2017: All branches will be closed. The Customer Service Department will be closed beginning Sunday, Dec. 24, 2017, at noon, all day Christmas Day, reopening after midnight on Dec. 26, 2017

■ Monday, Jan. 1, 2018: All branches will be closed. The Customer Service Department will be closed beginning Sunday, Dec. 31, 2017, at noon, all day New Year's Day, reopening after midnight on Jan. 2, 2018. ***(PR)***

Water service interruption in Dandan

There will be a scheduled water service interruption until Dec. 7, from 1pm to 5pm in the Dandan area (Pasgua Ct., Paseo Ct., Hafa Adai Ave., Palasyo Ct. and Mwaremwar Ave.). The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s contractor, AIC Marianas Inc., will be replacing a 6-inch water gate valve. ***(PR)***

Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 237-6824 ext. 23/22 Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu

SECURITY SERVICES INVITATION FOR BIDS NMC IFB 18-001

Northern Marianas College (The College) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement of Security Services for the As Terlaje Campus, Saipan.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing Wednesday, December 6th, 2017 between the hours of 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

Bid Submissions are due no later than 10:00 A.M, January 08, 2018, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is available to local businesses for this procurement.

For Bidders located outside of the CNMI: May request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The College reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this Invitation For Bids (IFB), if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

Approved by:

/s/ Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement Manager

A Land Grant Institution accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and by The Senior Commission for Colleges and Universities of the Western Association for Schools and Colleges

IN DOJ SETTLEMENT

Saipan restaurant distributes $40K in back pay

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Saipan-based J.E.T. Holding Co. Inc. distributed last week $40,000 to nine U.S. citizens pursuant to a settlement with the U.S. Justice Department, according to a department announcement yesterday.

The payments are part of a Jan. 17, 2017, settlement that resolved claims that JET discriminated against U.S. workers in favor of temporary foreign visa workers, in violation of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

In its investigation leading up to the settlement, the department found that from approximately January to June 2016, JET, which operates a restaurant on Saipan, routinely refused to hire qualified U.S. citizens and other work-authorized individuals, including lawful permanent residents, for dishwasher positions because of their citizenship status.

Instead, JET preferred to fill the positions with temporary foreign visa workers, according to the department's investigation.

Under the INA, employers cannot prefer to hire temporary foreign visa workers over available and qualified U.S. workers based on citizenship status. Individuals born on Saipan are U.S. citizens and its population includes work-authorized lawful permanent residents, asylees and refugees.

After the investigation was resolved through a settlement, the department's Civil Rights Division and the U.S. Attorney Office for the District of Guam collaborated to identify individuals affected by the alleged discrimination. The department determined that nine U.S. citizens were eligible to receive back pay, and the payments JET distributed to them last week exhausted the $40,000 back pay fund established under the agreement.

"We are pleased that U.S. workers received back pay to compensate them for the discrimination they faced, and that JET has worked to improve its hiring practices," said John M. Gore, acting assistant attorney general of the Civil Rights Division. "The Justice Department is committed to holding employers accountable when they place U.S. workers in a second class status."

The division's Immigrant and Employee Rights Section is responsible for enforcing the anti-discrimination provision of the INA. The law prohibits, among other things, citizenship, immigration status and national origin discrimination in hiring, firing or recruitment or referral for a fee; unfair documentary practices in employment eligibility verification; retaliation; and intimidation.

In February 2017, IER launched its Protecting U.S. Workers Initiative, an initiative aimed at targeting, investigating, and bringing enforcement actions against companies that discriminate against U.S. workers in favor of foreign visa workers. IER filed the first suit as part of the Initiative in October against a Loveland, Colorado, company for allegedly discriminating against U.S. workers.

To learn more about the protections against employment discrimination under immigration laws, call IER's worker hotline at 1-800-255-7688 (1-800-237-2515, TTY for hearing impaired); call IER's employer hotline at 1-800-255-8155 (1-800-237-2515, TTY for hearing impaired); sign up for a free webinar at www.justice.gov/crt/about/osc/webinars.php; email osc-crt@usdoj.gov; or visit IER's website at www.justice.gov/crt/about/osc.

Applicants or employees who believe they were subjected to different documentary requirements based on their citizenship status, immigration status or national origin; or discrimination based on their citizenship status, immigration status or national origin in hiring, firing or recruitment or referral, should contact the worker hotline above for assistance. ***(PR)***

The Corporate Social Responsibility arm of Imperial Pacific International Ltd. are joined by the staff of the Office on Aging led by Linda Torres. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Man'amko benefit from IPI project

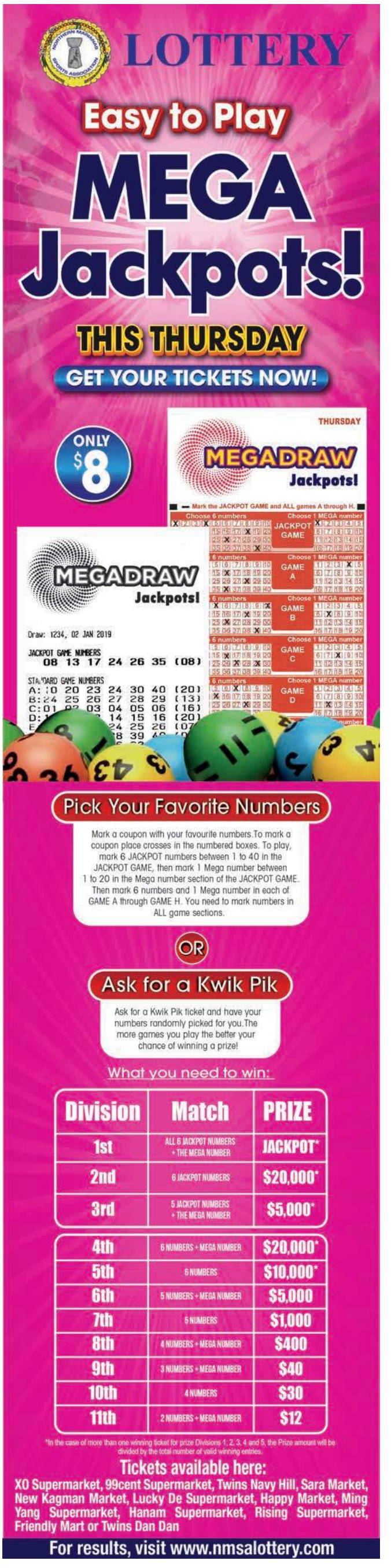
The Corporate Social Responsibility arm of Imperial Pacific International Ltd. has a new program called "*Man'Amko* Caretaker Yard Cleanup."

In collaboration with the *Mana'amko* Center and the Office of the Mayor of Saipan, the project primarily provides free services to the *man'amko* such as cleaning up the yards of their homes.

The work includes bush-cutting, yard debris cleanup, raking, trimming of hedges, hauling off of old appliances and furniture.

This initiative by IPI-CSR provides meaningful service to the elderly community, many of whom are in need of assistance in maintaining the surroundings of their homes. ***(PR)***

Imperial Pacific's CSR team along with its partners haul off debris in one of the homes of an elderly resident. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO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4th | 6 NUMBERS + MEGA NUMBER | $20,000*
5th | 6 NUMBERS | $10,000*
6th | 5 NUMBERS + MEGA NUMBER | $5,000
7th | 5 NUMBERS | $1,000
8th | 4 NUMBERS + MEGA NUMBER | $400
9th | 3 NUMBERS + MEGA NUMBER | $40
10th | 4 NUMBERS | $30
11th | 2 NUMBERS + MEGA NUMBER | $12
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Why deregulating internet service makes sense

Yes, animal videos are more fun to think about. But like all major government efforts to deregulate industries, from telephones to airlines, the Federal Communications Commission's move to do away with net neutrality is destined to have a major impact. We think consumers will benefit because increased competition is a greater spur to technological innovation than government fiat.

This is not to minimize the uncertainty of cutting the cord on net neutrality. There's a lot of concern, especially among Democrats, that deregulating internet communications is going to hurt consumers. The fear: Internet providers (cable companies and wireless carriers) will usurp control of bandwidth for their own benefit. They'll speed up and improve the transmission quality of websites they control and charge more to guarantee high speeds, while slowing down everything else. So pay up or enjoy the buffering.

We guess that would make sense if we believed we've reached a point of maximum progress and our main concern, as with an electric utility, is keeping the lights on. But that doesn't strike us as anything near the reality. Digital technology is still a new, evolving industry, more like robotics or bitcoins than water service. The emphasis needs to be on encouraging scientific discovery and commercial discovery, while incorporating safeguards against exploitation.

How to do that?

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai says CEOs, investors and entrepreneurs are in the best position to invent and give consumers what they want, so they should be allowed to compete. "The No. 1 issue that I hear about is that people want better, faster, cheaper internet access," Pai told The Wall Street Journal earlier this year. "They want access, period. To me at least, that's the question the FCC should be squarely focused on: What is the regulatory framework that will maximize the incentives of every company to deploy the next generation of networks?"

The FCC is scheduled to vote on internet regulation Dec. 14. With two other Republicans also on the commission, it appears Pai's decision to end net neutrality will carry the day. This means internet providers will be able to negotiate payment from larger bandwidth users such as Netflix or Hulu, and offer different price and speed packages to consumers. Competition will spur investment and innovation while offering more choice, just as in airlines and other industries.

Two important points to keep in mind: First, deregulation will not usher in a digital chaos. The FCC and Federal Trade Commission will still have oversight responsibilities. Second, net neutrality is a new concept promulgated by the Obama administration. The internet operated without these restrictions previously without adverse effects. If deregulation doesn't work, it can be modified or reversed. Congress also can weigh in.

But let's give innovation and competition a chance. Anyone who claims to know exactly how this proposal plays out, and who'll win and lose, is relying on preconception. Deregulation could be the best thing since cat videos.

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The dangerous key to our political universe

By JOHN M. CRISP
Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service*, lives in Georgetown, Texas, and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com.*

Our political universe presents us with the same problem that physicists face when they contemplate the material cosmos: Should we pay more attention to the things that are very, very big or the things that are very, very small?

The Holy Grail for physicists is a unified theory that makes the physics of big things (stars, galaxies) mesh with the physics of small things (quarks, bosons).

The unified theory of our politics, of course, is Donald Trump, and few elements, whether large or small, of our political universe can escape his psychological and emotional gravity.

This somewhat overwrought metaphor occurs to me as I consider the comparative consequence of the range of issues that anyone who thinks about the current state of our nation has to take into account.

At one end, there are profoundly serious issues that could actually kill us. The persistent background static of our world is climate change; our response to this crisis continues to be woefully inadequate. At the same time, the slope toward a nuclear exchange with North Korea seems increasingly slippery; the consequences would be unimaginably devastating.

If we didn't have issues like these to think about, we'd be more concerned about a president who is unable to make his way through a ceremony honoring the Navajo code talkers, genuine heroes of World War II, without succumbing to the temptation to attack a political opponent.

Or a president who can't let go of obviously false and consistently debunked conspiracy theories, such as ones concerning the birthplace of President Obama.

Somewhere between these two extremes are issues of staggering importance, such as Russian interference in American elections and highly placed officials who lied about it, bad tax reform and the elimination of consumer financial protections, matters that won't destroy our republic (probably) but which don't do private citizens or our democracy much good.

It's a confusing, threatening context in which to have a normal life or raise children. It's hard to remember a time when the nation faced a comparable array of dangerous circumstances or had in place leadership so ill-suited to cope with them.

But thinking about Donald Trump as the cause or aggravating element of most of these issues helps explain a lot. For example, the mean-spirited tendency toward name-calling that provokes Trump to demean a ceremony honoring Indian war heroes by pausing to call a detested political opponent "Pocahontas" is the same tendency that leads him to call North Korea's dictator "Little Rocket Man."

To Trump this compulsive name-calling is probably highly satisfying. Much of his base approves of it, and it makes him feel good. But it's neither tactical nor strategic; more likely it's the product of an immature, undisciplined mind and a narcissistic spirit.

Unfortunately we have little evidence that Trump is able to distinguish between the first instance—the unseemly besmirching of a ceremony meant to honor war heroes—and the second—the dangerous taunting of an unstable, unpredictable dictator with nuclear weapons.

Of course, it's not always possible to separate the big issues from the small ones. At best, name-calling is tacky and undignified, but it doesn't threaten our nation until it begins to stand in the way of a peaceful resolution of the North Korea dilemma. In other words, it won't always be easy to distinguish between the Trump who is uncouth and embarrassing and the Trump who is dangerous.

But Trump is the force that binds together a good deal of the current chaos, and not in a good way. He still has loyal supporters, and many Republicans are willing to tolerate him to serve political and policy goals; last week's vote on tax reform in the Senate is a good example.

But at some point his volatility, unpredictability, lack of self-control and, indeed, mental instability—respectable psychiatrists and other mental health experts have weighed in on this point—will reach critical mass, and force us to cope with the fact that we've made a very poor choice to lead the free world. And then what?

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Credentials, please?

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

There's a plus side to the legislative salary increase of 80 percent. It slowly brings into full view the minimum qualifications or credentials required that corresponds with the new loot of $71,100 per year.

At a minimum, a candidate must have at least a master's degree in government, English, math, history or Pacific studies to qualify for the new loot. It must come with at least five years of professional experience. It guarantees that he is equipped with credentials that would foster far superior representation. How many of Da Boysis have credentials close or commensurate to the new salary envisioned here?

We all know the humiliation of "out-of-focus" people charged with policymaking without the requisite academic and professional credentials. We can't even resolve the CW issue that would throw a monkey wrench on economic growth here. What's our future at the feet of Da Boysis?

Appalling how legislators have openly trashed the wellbeing of the people they represent. Some 14,000 are earning poverty income level and below. Yet, they gave themselves a huge increase in loot of some $31,600 on top of their current salary of $39,500, for a total of $71,100. How much did you get as a civil service or private sector employee?

Furthermore, utilities just went up while huge hospital fees are on the wings. Whatever happened to fiduciary duty? Inconceivable the pile of financial obligations imposed on families struggling to endure the bad times while their royal misfits on the hill feast on their 80 percent salary hike. Credentials, please?

Saludu: Para si Primun Ned S. Arriola, si Yuus maase` nui ma`ug na amesta yan setbisiomu gi depattamentun hinemlu`. Sen ti hu supone hinanau-mu pot asolas umatulaika hit mensahe gi Facebook. Dispues silensiu. I lagu` mame unina` fresku i mapagahes gi kareramu hulu` gi lañget i Saina. Hahassu ham gi rainomu. Tinayuyot. Si Yuus Maase`!

**Chagu`:** Gi chagu` na katsadan trañkilida yan katma, mafattu dinisehan pas giya hita lau pot mantautau hit mina` lamegai biahe `nai mas gumai distansia i ta tatañga.

Enfin, sinparat ta usune umuma kilu`osta gi kareran para tafan mattu gi pisun un` kilu`us ni talili`e gi chagu` hogsu`. Hulili`e lokue` puntan ayu na kilu`us lau sin inbatgu bai kontinua kareraru pot hineñgeghu.

Kase taiguine ta padedese pot mangaige hit gi sasalaguan tanu` `nai diariu ta espipiha sensian katma yan trañkilida sin felis. Gaige este gi otru bandan lemlem tautau. Cha`mu hinahalañg, kontinua umusune sa` siempre un` fattu gi papa` i kilu`us. Ayu solu i umusune pumokate taduñg kañada siña mattu guihe na kilu`us.

Respetu: Megai gi mañainata esta man-hanau ni umoffisia suanu, tomtum yan amtau na finu` Chamorro. Gi katkuet asuntu maadahe mauleg usun palabra pot no u fan man-ensora otru tautau. Estague` `nai humalum suanu na finu` amku` ni motmut respetu.

Kobransa: Maila` ta po`lu na umayau hau $500 pesus ginen un` amigumu. Dispues tinetpe gai chinatsaga ya ha nesessita tatte salape`ña.

I man-amku` ti un` makopbla direktamiente ni dibimu. Mana esgin respetau na esplikasion tat kumu "gai chinatsaga i lahihu man-apase atkilon apartment ya sentaya` kepbleghu na biahe".

I finu` i bisita pot chinatsagan pagoña. Hagu ni man-didibi debi un` chahlau haf` sustansian pinedoñg fino`ña. Antes de u hanau debi unna`e haf` un` didibi gi hilu` ginagau dispensu. Palabran respetu mina` ma`ug inafamauleg gi entalu` natibu! Lastima sa` kulan maliñgu.

Kanastra: I man-amku` mana` guaha kanastran mama` ni masaguaniye pupulu, pugua`, afog yan amaska. Estague` mapresesenta gi bisita gigon mattu pot motibu.

`Nai ha kachet yan afgue` i mama` nina` maipe talañgaña. Nina` batbaru dispues sumañgan haf` dichu finatoña. Dispues sige man-grasiosu siha na konbetsasion. Maliñgu esta este na kustumbre.

**Inana`e:** Antes, man-afamauleg i bisinu gi inan`en kineni` guihan, pininu` ga`ga` yan kusechan gualu gi hagas soñgsoñg. Dispues de sige ta mueba hit guatu gi moseria mumaliñgu este na kustumbren tanu` i motmut gineftau. Pa`gu matulaika guatu gi presiun pot libra. Dios mihu!

Balutan: I familia ha prepara fina` sena gi finagpu` nobena. I intension i para u kombida i bisinu para u faniha mañena gi lamasan familia.

Lau inipus matulaika este guatu gi kustumbren "balutan". Dispues malofan guatu gi kareta dispues `nai ha bira siha ya manmanna`yan para siha mismu. Dios mihu para muna` kaduku este gi preparasion kantidan neñkanu`. Daña`e familia mañena! Na para i kustumbren balutan!

Chenot: Lamegai gi tautau-ta man-mamadedese chenot korason yan daibites. Nuebu na kumahulu` numeron kanset pachot yan estomagu ginen i pigua`.

I dos ni mefena gaige gi kantidan neñkanu` ni ta kakanu` diariu. Kumu sessu un` sumuke hau mas ke abilidat estomagumu, piot fina` ma`asin, mantika yan mames, hagu mismu umafuetsas tutuhun pinadese.

Fitme na karera para probleman korason ni sumen piligru. Unna` bulachu sistemamu sa` bula asukat gi halum haga`mu. Kareran probleman daibites.

Gigon sinaulag hau daibites ya umadet pot diskuidumu, problema siempre `an chetnudan hau sa` makat maguñg, piot ya gaige gi papa` timomu. Uniku remediu i para uma`utot.

`An mas umadet i daibites ha punu` i reñihion `nai uniku remedio para umana gasgas haga`mu i daialasis—tres biahe gi semana, kuattru oras kada biahe. Kanaha` todu man-madaialasis ti mas ke siñku años man-madispone.

Hagu kapitan hinemlo`mu ya hagu solu siña umadahe kinano`mu. Mauleg un` rebaha kantidan sentadamu papa` gi 80 pot sientu. Un` sedi estomagumu kalamten mauleg ya esta ñahlalañg siñientemu.

**Namase`:** Puti para tali`e un` patgon uma`akalaye` gi pechun nanaña pot ti amtiyun na chenot kanset. Diberas na nina`mase` i prohimu hokog feutsaña i patgon. Solu konsuelu i lago` nanaña ni muna` freresku mataña.

Kanaha` ti siñayu` kalamten gi tohgeghu `nai huli`e namase` mataña ayu na patgon. Namagof na man-sattun i mañainaña yan hihot yan mañeluña. Ai na lagu` kada che`lu ni mattu para u fañgonsuela. Hokog nina` siñahu i para bai fanayuyot ayudu para u lalibianu i prohimu gi pinadesiña.

Leadership lessons for life from Eli Manning

By SILVIO LACCETTI
Tribune News Service

Silvio Laccetti, Ph.D., is a retired professor of history and social science at Stevens Tech. Reach him at slaccett@stevens.edu.

As he has done ever since he became a professional football player, Eli Manning displayed his unique leadership style in reacting to being benched. His response to this shocking situation is a lesson for all who seek to lead others in any endeavor. But it is even more about how you take command in your own journey thorough life.

The modern study of leadership began with Niccolo Machiavelli who wrote "The Prince" in the 16th century. Thenceforth we have seen a growing tsunami of papers, articles, manuscripts and books on the topic, which is daily pushed in our faces by social media, blogs and websites. In my last years of teaching, I offered a seminar in leadership studies in which we examined various types of leaders, some ancient, some modern. Eli Manning's case quickly came to my attention.

Back in 2007-08, Eli was much in the news, his ability and leadership style coming into question. The issue was fully resolved when the Giants concluded a remarkable playoff run by defeating the mighty New England Patriots in 2008. Eli won the Super Bowl MVP trophy!

But his style puzzled me and confused media analysts and pundits. After much thought, I concluded that Eli was neither a conventional nor modern type of leader. Rather, he was a throwback to Medieval times, best represented by the chivalrous Knight, a Blue Knight for the "Big Blue Giants." The strength of his character and leadership was rooted in knightly ideals of Fortitude, Courage, Prudence and Humility—all employed in a quest of self-development that is self-assessed.

Modern media couldn't make heads or tales out of such a figure. Eli needed little outside motivation and never gloried in the fawning praise of others. He is his own quiet champion. Most important, this Knight leads by example. He stays the course, through good and bad, setting the example, sacrificing but not complaining.

Our society is used to fake leaders, using celebrity status to influence and blind the herd into thinking they have charisma!

Eli's short YouTube clip in which he discusses his benching reveals all in the context of what is right and just. He could not accept the coach's poorly considered, disrespectful offer to have him start games to keep alive his streak of 210 consecutive starts—and then put in a replacement. For Eli, and for anyone who takes things seriously, you play hard and for real. Eli declared that giving priority to the streak was an unworthy objective, unfair to the players or to him.

Moreover, he could not give less than his all, sacrificing his body as he did every day for 14 seasons. You can't be a Knight on a quest part time.

In his private meeting with ownership, Eli passionately voiced his displeasure regarding his treatment. Any good Knight is a warrior, ready for combat.

But, true to the Knights code of honor, the next day Manning was at practice, taking his place on the scout team, the lowest rung on the professional ladder, surprising many teammates and media folks. In admiration, teammate Justin Pugh commented: "If we could all have a little bit of that in our lives, I think we would all take it."

Fan reaction to the benching was livid. "I won't burn my tickets ... but I sure as hell won't be there for the remaining games." said one. Another claimed embarrassment at being a Giants fan.

This past Sunday, the Blue Knight was on the sidelines, as commentators used the widely heard awkward phrasing: For the first time in 13 years, a quarterback not named Manning would start for the Giants. All commented on his impeccable character. And even though Manning stated after the game that he hoped no one would be fired, coach Ben McAdoo and general manager Jerry Reese were let go Monday.

It is widely anticipated that Eli Manning will start next Sunday's game against Dallas.

Most modern people do not believe, as Macchiavelli did, in being rewarded by Providence for a never-quit attitude. But, we need only look at Eli's two miraculous Super Bowl wins propelled by unworldly catches, to see that Fortune can smile on those who merit her attentions. The Blue Knight became a Prince.

Life is unfair, but it is not unyielding. Good things can happen to good people. I would give strong odds that Eli, like his brother, Peyton, will find a second team to take to the Super Bowl. His quest is not over yet.

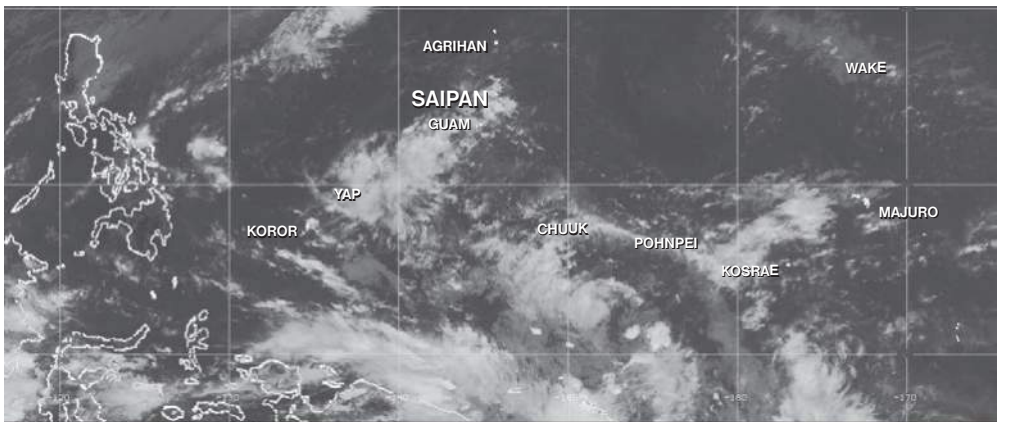
From this Blue Knight's tale, take heed—especially young people—and learn a lesson about being your own champion.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:00 AM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Isolated showers are seen across the Marianas this morning. Isolated thunderstorms remain a possibility over the Marianas this morning due to unstable conditions over the area. A surface trough is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms to the east of the islands. This convection is expected to approach the islands by this afternoon, bringing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms for the afternoon through tonight. The big change to the forecast is for the weekend and early next week. A developing tropical disturbance to the south of Chuuk is slowly moving toward the northwest. The GFS has been fairly consistent with developing this system over the next few days. Now, the ECMWF and NAVGEM both indicate a similar pattern. Therefore, decided to introduce mostly cloudy skies and increasing convection to the forecast for Saturday evening through Monday. Timing on this activity may change a bit between now and the weekend, though it looks pretty likely that the weekend will be fairly wet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	87° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	75° / 63°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	43° / 21°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	73° / 63°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	79° / 64°
London	Showers	55° / 34°
Los Angeles	Sunny	78° / 50°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 75°
Melbourne	Rain	73° / 52°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	81° / 72°
New York	Partly Cloudy	50° / 34°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	55° / 45°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	43° / 36°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	54° / 30°
Rome	Sunny	57° / 41°
Salem	Cloudy	52° / 39°
San Francisco	Sunny	60° / 45°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	39° / 19°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	54° / 39°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	48° / 33°

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:22 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.71
10:23 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.11
3:59 PM	LOW TIDE	1.14
8:47 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.02

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:29 AM	5:45 PM
Thursday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Friday	6:31 AM	5:46 PM
Saturday	6:31 AM	5:46 PM
Sunday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	8:49 am	8:35 pm
Thursday	-	9:48 am	9:37 pm
Friday	-	10:43 am	10:37 pm
Saturday	-	11:33 am	11:34 pm
Sunday	-	12:19 am	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 6, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-NANJING (NKG)

XP889	4:45pm	10:30pm	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

NANJING (NKG)-SAIPAN

XP888	9:35pm	4:00am+1	1, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express, XP XTRA Airways; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

MVA expands Christmas-scape lights

MVA

A series of light sculptures by the Marianas Visitors Authority line Beach Road on Nov. 29, 2017.

If you're looking for a picture-perfect, Christmas-scape, look no further than Paseo de Marianas and Beach Road, where the Marianas Visitors Authority has expanded its light display this year.

A giant new crystal ball and gift box and overhead light strings have been added to Paseo de Marianas, where Christmas in the Marianas festivities will be held every Saturday throughout December, from 5pm to 9pm.

In addition, new roadside light sculptures featuring the words "My Marianas" and island images such as flowers and shells now join the latte stones and *mwar* (floral head lei) from last year. A lit ball and hanging ribbon also adorns telephone poles along the route.

"Wherever visitors travel for the Christmas and New Year holidays, they expect a festive and celebratory atmosphere. It's important to meet that expectation for visitors to the Marianas, too," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "It's great to also see more businesses getting into the holiday spirit with their own displays, and we're happy to join with them in spreading holiday cheer."

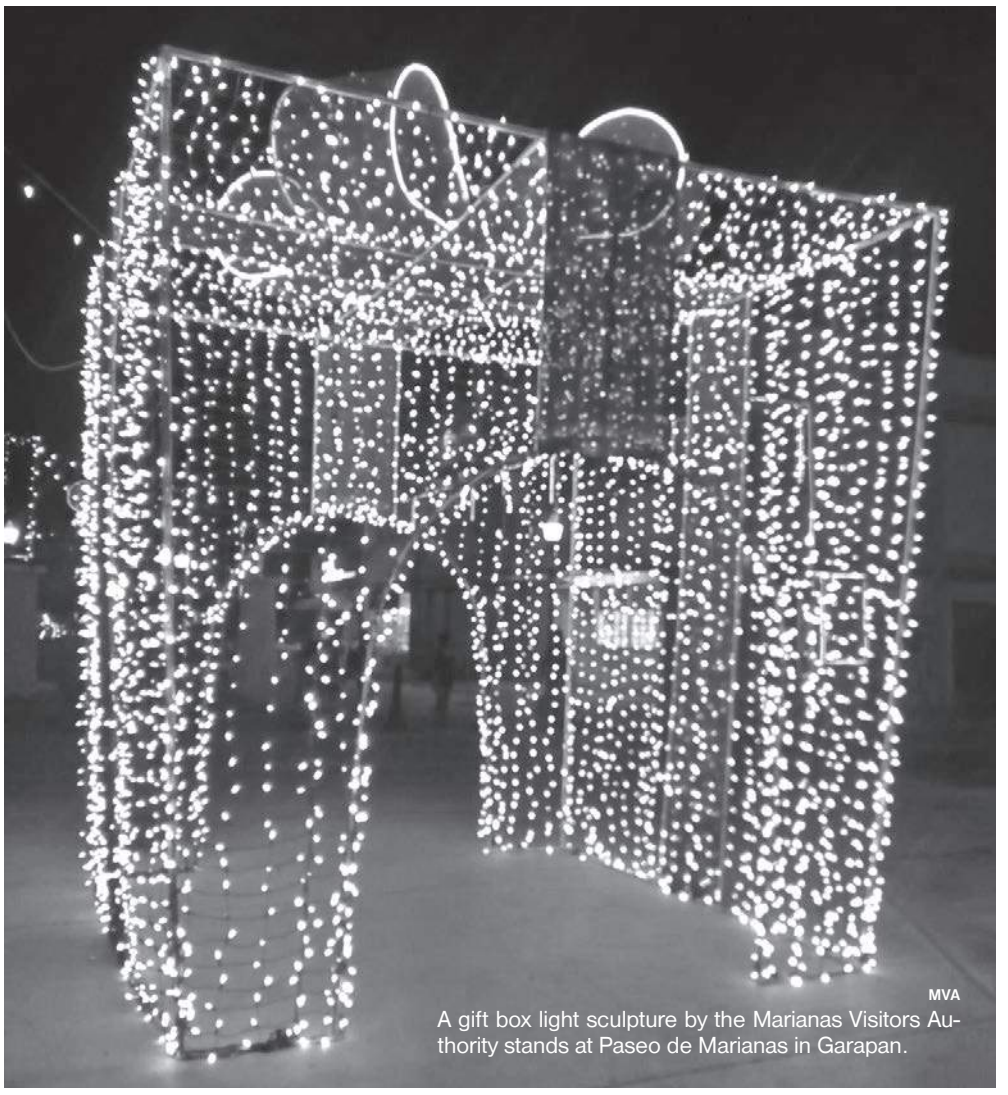
The lights will remain on display until Jan. 15, 2018.

Sponsoring companies are Micronesian Brokers, Inc., J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc., Saipan Computer Services Inc., Aquarius Beach Tower, Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd., Alter City Group Inc., United Airlines, Mariana Resort & Spa, T Galleria, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Island Turtle Tour, Rota Scuba Center Rubin, International Shooting Range, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Tasi Tours, McDonald's, Docomo Pacific, Triple J, PDI, Marianas Pacific Distributors Inc., Saipan Shipping Co. Inc., New XO Market, IT&E, Lollipops, Royal Travel Saipan, Saipan Adventure, Century Tours, and Let's Go.

For more information, contact MVA product development manager Tatiana Babauta at tbabauta@mymarianas.com or call 664-3200/1. ***(MVA)***

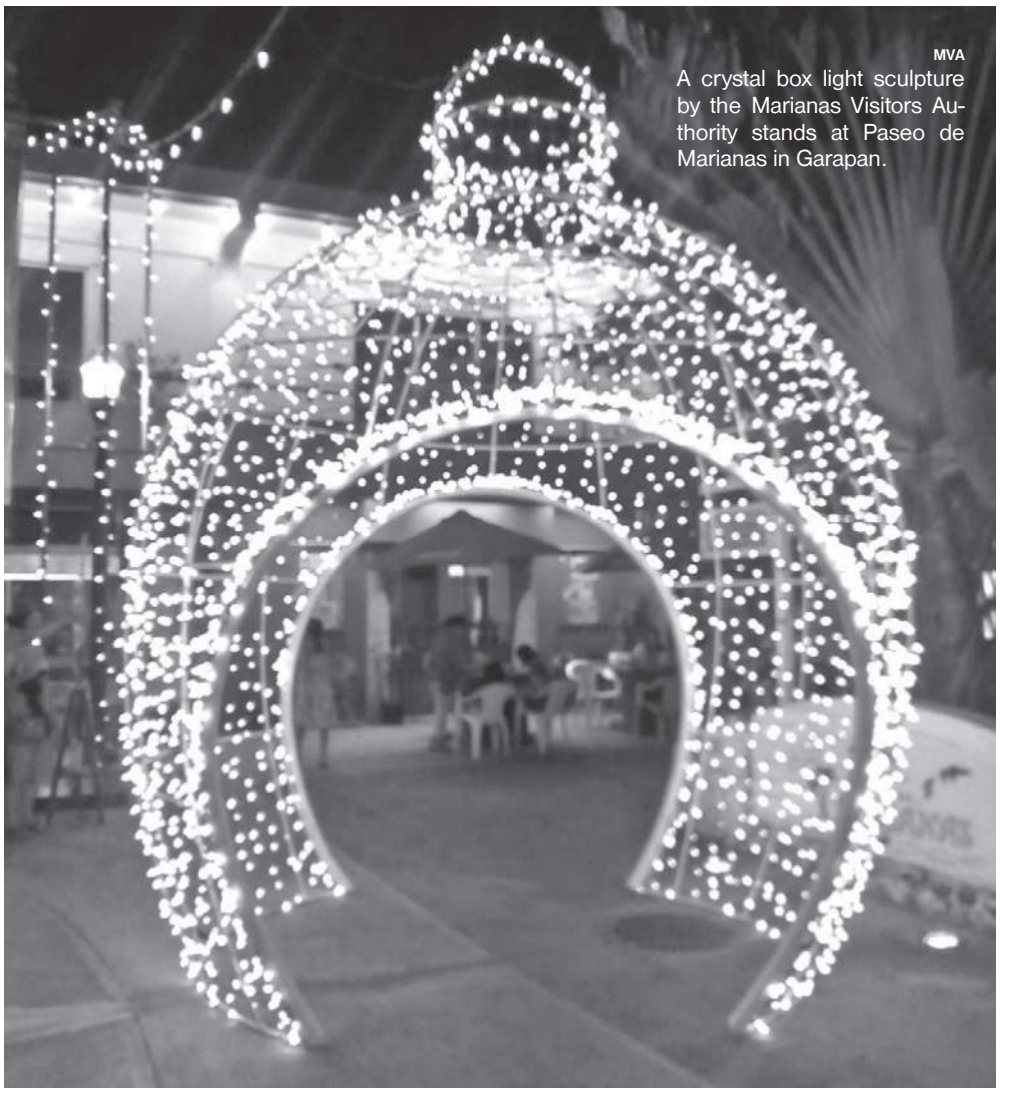
MVA

A Christmas tree sculpture by the Marianas Visitors Authority stands at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.



MVA

A gift box light sculpture by the Marianas Visitors Authority stands at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.



MVA

A crystal box light sculpture by the Marianas Visitors Authority stands at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

Volunteers sought for Tank Beach cleanup

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Cleanup Brigade will be picking up trash at Tank Beach in Kagman this Saturday, Dec. 9.

If you would like to volunteer, meet the BECQ representatives on Saturday at the Tank Beach entrance at 8am. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a brigade T-shirt.

For more information about volunteering, contact the BECQ at 664-8500/1. ***(BECQ)***

Power interruption in San Antonio on Saturday

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017, from 5:30am to 10:30am to allow line crew of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to safely replace three wooden power poles with concrete poles along Chalan Tun Thomas P. Sablan in San Antonio.

This is part of an ongoing hazard mitigation project of the Federal Emergency Management Agency that involves replacing 787 wooden poles with concrete poles.

A total of 483 wooden poles have already been replaced, leaving 304 that still needs to be replaced.

Areas to be affected include Kiya 2 (2nd Partial) affecting Chalan Tun Thomas P. Sablan in San Antonio (Lililok Pl., Alu Dr., and Bua Ln.) and Afetna Road. No water well will be affected but the A-3 wastewater lift station will be affected.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(CUC)***

Nation

Trump takes rare step to reduce 2 national monuments in Utah

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)— President Donald Trump on Monday took the rare step of scaling back two sprawling national monuments in Utah, declaring that "public lands will once again be for public use" in a move cheered by Republican leaders who lobbied him to undo protections they considered overly broad.

The decision marks the first time in a half century that a president has undone these types of land protections. Tribal and environmental groups oppose the decision and began filing lawsuits Monday in a bid to stop Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

Trump made the plan official during a speech at the State Capitol, where he signed proclamations to shrink the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments. Both monuments encompass millions of acres of land.

President Donald Trump hands a pen to Sen Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, after signing a proclamation to shrink the size of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante national monuments at the Utah State Capitol Monday, Dec. 4, 2017, in Salt Lake City. AP

State officials said the protections were overly broad and closed off the area to energy development and other access.

Environmental and tribal groups say the designations are needed to protect important archaeological and cultural resources, especially the more than 1.3 million-acre (2,030-square-mile) Bears Ears site featuring thousands of Native American artifacts, including ancient cliff dwellings and petroglyphs.

Trump argued that the people of Utah know best how to care for their land.

"Some people think that the natural resources of Utah should be controlled by a small handful of very distant bureaucrats located in Washington," Trump said. "And guess what? They're wrong."

Roughly 3,000 demonstrators lined up near the State Capitol to protest Trump's announcement. Some held signs that said, "Keep your tiny hands off our public lands," and they chanted, "Lock him up!" A smaller group gathered in support, including some who said they favor potential drilling or mining there that could create jobs. Bears Ears has no oil or gas, Zinke told reporters, though Grand Staircase-Escalante has coal.

"Your timeless bond with the outdoors should not be replaced with the whims of regulators thousands and thousands of miles away," Trump said. "I've come to Utah to take a very historic action to reverse federal overreach and restore the rights of this land to your citizens."

Bears Ears, created last December by President Barack Obama, will be reduced by about 85 percent, to 201,876 acres (315 square miles).

Grand Staircase-Escalante, designated in 1996 by President Bill Clinton, will be reduced from nearly 1.9 million acres (nearly 3,000 square miles) to 1,003,863 acres (1,569 square miles).

Both were among a group of 27 monuments that Trump ordered Zinke to review this year.

Zinke accompanied Trump aboard Air Force One, as did Utah's Republican U.S. senators, Orrin Hatch and Mike Lee. Hatch and other Utah Republican leaders pushed Trump to launch the review, saying the monuments designated by the former Democratic presidents locked up too much federal land.

Trump framed the decision as returning power to the state, saying, "You know and love this land the best and you know the best how to take care of your land." He said the decision would "give back your voice."

"Public lands will once again be for public use," Trump said to cheers.

Hatch, who introduced Trump, said that when "you talk, this president listens" and that Trump promised to help him with "federal overreach."

Earthjustice filed the first of several expected lawsuits Monday, calling the reduction of Grand Staircase-Escalante an abuse of the president's power that jeopardizes a "Dinosaur Shangri-la" full of fossils. Some of the dinosaur fossils sit on a plateau that is home to one of the country's largest known coal reserves, which could now be open to mining. The organization is representing eight conservation groups.

Trump's tweet raises obstruction specter, worries allies

WASHINGTON (AP)— The shifting explanations for why President Donald Trump fired national security adviser Michael Flynn have revived questions about whether the president may have obstructed an ongoing investigation of potential contacts between his campaign and Russia.

Pressure on the administration has mounted since Flynn last week pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his conversations with the Russian ambassador, with prosecutors revealing that he is now cooperating with special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation. And a muddled White House response, including a problematic presidential tweet, has left some Trump confidants worried that the president is not being well-served by his legal team and believing his lawyers have painted a too-rosy picture of the president's potential plight.

The president's aides and legal advisers have scrambled for 48 hours to explain a presidential tweet that raised the specter of obstruction. It read: "I had to fire General Flynn because he lied to the Vice President and the FBI. He has pleaded guilty to those lies. It is a shame because his actions during the transition were lawful. There was nothing to hide!"

That tweet appeared to indicate a change in the White House explanation for Flynn's firing, suggesting Trump was aware when the White House dismissed Flynn on Feb. 13 that the national security adviser had lied to the FBI, whose agents had interviewed him weeks earlier. Former FBI Director James Comey has said Trump the following day brought up the Flynn investigation in private at the White House and told him he hoped he could "let this go," raising the possibility he knew Flynn had lied and was looking to cover up the offense.

With questions raised by the tweet, Trump associates tried to put distance between the president and the potentially incriminating message.

One of Trump's attorneys, John Dowd, told CNN on Sunday that he was responsible for crafting the tweet.

Dowd declined to comment to the AP but replied with a Fox News story Monday quoting prominent lawyer Alan Dershowitz as saying Trump couldn't have committed obstruction of justice by urging Comey to drop the FBI investigation of Flynn.

Kellyanne Conway, counselor to the president, backed up Dowd's claim that he wrote the tweet, saying "the lawyers are the ones that understand how to put those tweets together."

"I was with the president on Saturday all day, frankly, and I know that what he said is correct," Conway continued, referring to Dowd. "What he says is that he put it together and sent it to our director of social media."

A White House spokesman declined to answer whether Dowd dictated the tweet word-for-word to the White House director of social media, Dan Scavino, or whether Scavino, who has access to the @RealDonaldTrump account and its 44 million followers, put the sentiment into something resembling Trump's own voice.

The president angrily scolded aides for the tweet over the weekend, according to a person familiar with private conversations but not authorized to discuss them publicly. The White House is considering reviewing how some tweets, particularly related to the Russia probe, get posted.

The episode has rattled some of Trump's outside advisers, who have pressed upon Trump since Flynn's guilty plea that he needs to change legal strategy. White House lawyer Ty Cobb has repeatedly offered public assurances that the investigation into the administration would soon be over, with the president exonerated.

Trump has taken that counsel to heart, telling two close allies over the weekend that he believed he was in the clear and that Mueller's team wouldn't unveil any further charges, according to the advisers who discussed the private conversations under the conditions of anonymity. Both of the confidants said they disputed that assessment and urged Trump to go on the offensive, perhaps by firing his current lawyers or triggering a series of events that could lead to Mueller's dismissal.

Trump did not suggest he was considering that approach. And one of the advisers, who speaks to Trump regularly, said the president had not discussed with him the possibility of issuing any pardons.

Lawmakers work to reconcile dueling House, Senate tax bills

WASHINGTON (AP)— Significant differences separate the massive tax packages passed by the House and Senate on estate taxes, health care and a prized deduction for home mortgage interest, though Republican leaders are confident none is insurmountable.

Republicans are trying to pass the biggest rewrite of the tax system in more than 30 years.

"We're looking forward to getting a final bill to the president's desk, soon," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said Monday.

Both versions would cut taxes by about $1.5 trillion over the next decade while adding billions to the deficit. But they take different approaches.

"I don't see anything here that is a deal-killer," said Jon Traub, a former staff director for House Ways and Means Republicans who is now at Deloitte Tax. "Having come this far, I don't know why they wouldn't be able to finish."

The Senate bill passed by a thin 51-49 margin, so any changes in that measure will have to be negotiated with the senators who care about that issue, said Marc Gerson, a former tax counsel for Ways and Means and now chair of the law firm Miller & Chevalier.

"Overall, I think that the Senate bill is kind of the base text," Gerson said.

The differences and how each issue is likely to play out:

PERSONAL INCOME TAX RATES

The House bill condenses current seven brackets to four: 12 percent, 25 percent, 35 percent and 39.6 percent. The Senate measure retains seven brackets but changes them and reduces the top bracket from 39.6 percent to 38.5 percent.

The Senate bill ends the reductions in 2026; they're permanent in the House version.

It has long been a Republican goal to reduce the number of tax brackets, so House Republicans will have a strong argument on this issue.

Asia

Cathay Pacific crew witnessed N. Korea missile test

AP

This Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2017, file image provided by the North Korean government on Thursday, Nov. 30, 2017, shows what the North Korean government calls the Hwasong-15 intercontinental ballistic missile, at an undisclosed location in North Korea.

\HONG KONG (AP)—The crew of a Cathay Pacific flight saw what it believes was North Korea's latest missile test last week, the second airline to report sighting it.

Cathay said Monday that the flight from San Francisco to Hong Kong reported witnessing the apparent re-entry of the ICBM that North Korea launched before dawn Wednesday.

The missile was far from the plane, and operation was unaffected, Cathay said, adding that it had informed other carriers and relevant authorities.

"At the moment, no one is changing any routes or operating parameters," the Hong Kong-based airline said in a statement. "We remain alert and (will) review the situation as it evolves."

The North Korean missile was fired very high up, reaching an altitude of 4,475 kilometers (2,780 miles) before falling back into the Sea of Japan about 950 kilometers (600 miles) from where it was launched. It was in the air for 53 minutes.

The Hwasong-15 intercontinental ballistic missile demonstrated a greater range than other missiles North Korea has tested. One expert estimated its range at more than 13,000 kilometers (8,100 miles) if launched on a standard trajectory, which would put Washington, D.C., within reach.

Korean Air pilots on two different planes also reported seeing flashes of light believed to be the North Korean missile when they were flying over Japan, airline spokesman Cho Hyun-mook said.

The flights, one from San Francisco and the other from Los Angeles, were both headed for Incheon, the main airport serving Seoul, South Korea.

Experts say the chance of a missile test hitting a civilian airliner is very low. North Korea likely chooses splashdown points for each stage that avoid airline routes, said Vipin Narang, an expert on nuclear strategy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"The problem is if the test goes awry in any way, and debris starts falling in ... more heavily trafficked areas," he said in an email. "That would still be low probability but more risky."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Rahul Gandhi set to be opposition Congress party chief

NEW DELHI (AP)—Rahul Gandhi, the scion of India's Nehru-Gandhi political dynasty, submitted nomination papers Monday to succeed his mother as president of the main opposition Congress party, which previously governed the country for decades. No other candidates registered by Monday's dateline, so Gandhi is likely to be declared the victor on Dec. 11 without a formal vote, a party spokesman said. Gandhi faces a challenging task of reinvigorating the party, which was ousted from power by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party in 2014. Modi is expected to seek re-election for a second five-year term in 2019 national elections. The task is even more formidable with the Congress party suffering humiliating defeats in recent state elections, notably in Uttar Pradesh state, despite Gandhi's active campaigning to win back people's support.

Bangladesh, Cambodia leaders meet on Rohingya, other issues

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina met with her Cambodian counterpart, Hun Sen, on Monday during an official visit to the Southeast Asian country. Several agreements on trade, economic and technical cooperation were signed by officials and witnessed by the two leaders after their bilateral meeting. Hasina said she asked for Hun Sen's support in helping to find a durable solution to the Rohingya refugee crisis, which "threatens peace and stability of our region." More than 620,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled to Bangladesh since security forces in neighboring Myanmar launched a violent crackdown against them on Aug. 25, turning it into Asia's worst refugee crisis in decades. Hasina is scheduled to head back to Dhaka on Tuesday.

Pakistan court dismisses ex-PM plea to combine graft cases

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A Pakistani court has dismissed former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's plea to combine three corruption cases into one. The two-judge panel of Islamabad High Court announced its verdict Monday after hearing Sharif's lawyer and the prosecutor. Sharif is facing three corruption cases filed by the National Accountability Bureau in the wake of the Panama Papers disclosures which led to his disqualification in July for concealing assets. Earlier in the day, Sharif appeared before the anti-corruption court where his next hearing was set for the following day. The court has twice dismissed Sharif's plea.

Sanofi says it is cooperating with gov't on dengue vaccine

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The manufacturer of a dengue fever vaccine that was suspended in the Philippines after a new study showed a greater risk of severe cases in people without previous infection said Monday it is working with authorities to address fears and share the new information.

The Philippine Department of Health put on hold its 3.5 billion peso ($69.5 million) public dengue immunization drive launched last year- the world's first such public program—after the study was released last week.

French-based Sanofi Pasteur said its long-term follow-up study of its Dengvaxia vaccine showed sustained benefits for up to six years for those who had previous dengue infection, but that people who never had dengue had an increased risk of a severe case and hospitalization from the third year after immunization.

More than 730,000 public school children aged 9 and above in three Philippine regions with high rates of dengue fever have received at least the first dose of Dengvaxia, the first licensed dengue vaccine.

"Today if you know somebody without previous infection, we would not recommend vaccination," said Dr. Ng Su-Peing, global medical head at Sanofi Pasteur.

Still, she said in places with a high incidence of dengue fever, such as the Philippines, where nine out of 10 children aged 9 to 14 are infected by the virus before adolescence, "the potential benefits of vaccination outweigh the potential risks in individuals with unknown serostatus."

Out of 100 people infected by dengue, only 25 typically show symptoms, she told reporters.

Ng said most participants in the study without previous dengue infection who fell ill had cases that ranked in the milder two of four levels of severity. No cases in the most severe level were recorded, and all those stricken with dengue in the study have fully recovered, she said.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said the Philippines will wait for a recommendation to be released on Dec. 12 or 13 by the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on immunization, an advisory body of the World Health Organization.

Ching Santos, general manager of Sanofi Pasteur in the Philippines, said the company has begun sharing the new data with all stakeholders, including private health care professionals, and will cooperate with Philippine health authorities in an ongoing review of the public vaccination program.

Sanofi is also working with the Philippine Food and Drugs Administration to update product labels to reflect the new information, she added.

Dengue is a mosquito-borne viral infection found in tropical and subtropical climates worldwide. It causes a flu-like disease that can cause joint pain, nausea, vomiting and a rash. In severe cases, dengue can cause breathing problems, hemorrhaging and organ failure.

The World Health Organization says about half the world's population is at risk of dengue, with a recent estimate indicating 390 million infections per year, of which about 96 million people show symptoms.

World

Yemen's chaos deepens after rebels killed ex-president Saleh

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—The killing of Yemen's longtime strongman and ex-President Ali Abdullah Saleh by the country's Shiite rebels as their alliance crumbled amid street clashes in the capital, Sanaa, has thrown the nearly three-year civil war into unpredictable new chaos.

A video circulating online on Monday showed Saleh's body with a gaping head wound dumped in a pickup truck by rebels — a grisly end recalling that of his contemporary, Libya's Moammar Gadhafi, in 2011.

Saleh's slaying likely gives the rebels the upper hand in the days-long fighting for Sanaa while also shattering hopes by Yemen's Saudi-backed government that the former president's recent split with the Iranian-backed rebels, known as Houthis, would have weakened them.

That would give Yemen's internationally recognized government and the Saudi-led coalition backing it and waging war on the Houthis a chance for a turning point in the stalemated conflict that has brought humanitarian disaster.

Saleh

But with Saleh's forces seemingly in disarray, it was not immediately clear if the Saudi-led coalition will be able to turn the split to its advantage in the war.

It was a grisly end for Saleh, who ruled Yemen for more than three decades until an Arab Spring uprising forced him to step down in 2012. He later allied with the Houthi rebels hoping to exploit their strength to return to power. That helped propel Yemen into the ruinous civil war that has spread hunger and disease among its 28 million people.

Saleh's death was announced by the Houthis and confirmed by two Saleh associates and a Yemeni government official. The exact circumstances were unclear: Houthi officials said their fighters killed him as he tried to flee the capital for his nearby hometown of Sanhan. The Houthis' top leader said Saleh paid the price for his "treason," accusing him of betraying their alliance to side with the Saudi-backed coalition.

Houthi and Saleh-loyalist forces have been fighting in Sanaa since late last week. The Saudi-led coalition has been hitting Houthi positions with airstrikes, hoping that having Saleh on its side after his split with the rebels could provide a foothold in the capital for the forces of the Saudi-backed president, Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi.

But by Monday evening, hours after Saleh's death, witnesses said his forces had abandoned some of their positions in Sanaa and that Houthi fighters had moved into one of the most heavily contested districts, seizing Saleh's house and those of some of his family members. Saudi airstrikes hit several Houthi positions in the evening, but otherwise the city saw the first easing of fighting in days.

In a televised speech, the Houthis' top leader, Abdul-Malek al-Houthi, called Saleh's killing a "dark day for the forces of the coalition." He said he had known Saleh was communicating with the coalition and had warned him to stop.

Hadi, in turn, gave a televised speech of his own on Monday from the Saudi capital, Riyadh, where he has been in self-imposed exile for most of the war. He tried to rally Saleh's allies to keep up the fight against the Houthis.

"Let's put our hands together to end this nightmare," Hadi said. He said his government forces would support any "uprising" against the Houthis in Sanaa.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
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Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SAIPAN VEGAS PROJECT & GUALO RAI OFFICE PARK

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the Saipan Vegas project and the Gualo Rai Office Park project.

MP Holdings is operating the Saipan Vegas project that includes the construction of two modular 2-story hotel buildings - one with 16 units and the other is 34 units. Each unit includes one bedroom and one bathroom with a toilet. Total number of rooms for the Saipan Vegas project is 50 units. The project also includes an existing commercial building with a café, E-Gaming facility, and an additional 90 parking stalls, 4 ADA parking and 2 bus stalls. The project site is located on Lot Nos. 1795-2 and 1795-R3, next to the Saipan Country Club Golf Course in Chalan Laulau, Saipan.

The Marianas Management Corporation is proposing to build the Gualo Rai Office Park on the corner of Chalan Pale Arnold (Middle Road) and Gualo Rai Road in Gualo Rai near the central west coast of Saipan. The planned development includes two office buildings and a new U.S. District Courthouse building. The west office building will be a 1-story structure with an interior space of about 31,972 square feet, the south building will be a 2-story building with an interior space of about 63,945 square feet, and the new U.S. Courthouse will be a 3-story building with an interior space of about 53,625 square feet. The business park will include 254 parking spaces. This project will be situated on Lot Nos. 1888, 1888-1, and 1890 in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

The public hearing for these projects is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 20, 2017, at 5PM,** at the BECQ main conference room, 2nd floor.

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Caller Box 10007 or by fax at 664-8315. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M, Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Saipan Vegas project and the Gualo Rai Office Park project.

/s/ Janice E. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

Muslim states warn US against moving embassy to Jerusalem

JERUSALEM (AP)—An umbrella organization of Muslim countries said Monday that President Donald Trump's possible recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital would constitute "naked aggression" against the Arab and Muslim world, as the ruling Palestinian party has called for mass protests against such a move by Washington.

The Organization for Islamic Cooperation issued a statement condemning an anticipated announcement by the president, saying its 57 member states should sever ties with any state that transfers its embassy to Jerusalem or recognizes Israel's annexation of east Jerusalem.

Israel captured east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war, but the international community doesn't recognize its sovereignty over it. The Palestinians claim east Jerusalem, home to the Old City's contested holy sites, as the capital of a future state. The western half of the city is home to Israel's parliament, Supreme Court and most government headquarters.

The city is an emotional issue at the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. A declaration by the United States risks inflaming tensions across the Middle East as the Trump administration tries to advance a peace plan to resolve the decades-long conflict.

U.S. officials said Trump may recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital this week. He had promised to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem during his campaign, and recognizing Jerusalem as the capital could offset disappointment in postponing the move once again.

Every president since Clinton has issued the waiver on moving the embassy, saying Jerusalem's status must be resolved by negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. Trump last signed the six-month waiver in June, and the deadline expired on Friday.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah party called for mass protests "to confront this aggression not only against the Palestinians, but against Muslims and Christians all over the world."

Abbas warned Sunday that American recognition of Jerusalem was "a threat to the future of the peace process and is unacceptable for the Palestinians, Arabs and internationally."

Focus

Beijing evictions of migrant workers stir widespread anger

AP
Zhou Xinci, right, a migrant from Heilongjiang, talks about her fears of being evicted, as her son sits at left, in the outskirts of Beijing, China, Monday, Nov. 27, 2017.

By EMILY WANG and YI-LING LIU
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIJING (AP)—Zhou Xinci left her hometown in China's struggling rust belt four years ago for Beijing with little more than the clothes on her back and a dream to one day save enough money to buy a home.

That dream is now fast unraveling as Zhou, 35, watches as her neighbors—other low-income Chinese migrants like her—are being hurriedly evicted from their homes on the outskirts of the capital by the government.

Authorities in Beijing have launched sweeping evictions of workers who have migrated from elsewhere in the country, triggering a public outcry over the treatment of people the city depends on to build skyscrapers, care for children and take on other lowly paid work.

Zhou, whose husband is a factory worker in Beijing, knows their family will soon be next and wonders how they will stay in the city and keep their 9-year-old son safe and in school.

"They are chasing people away from apartments and smashing things. How wouldn't a child be scared? My son is scared and can't sleep at night, of course I'm scared too," she said.

Her family now pays 400 yuan ($60) a month to rent a single room big enough for their bed, a wardrobe, television set and refrigerator. But with soaring rents and rising discrimination against migrant workers, she says it will be impossible to find another room.

"They say Beijing people will feel heartache if they lose a dog," Zhou said. "We are living people. How could they treat us like this?"

Workers interviewed by the AP say whole families have been evicted, often with little notice, leaving them scrambling to transport their belongings in the freezing weather. Many have had to pile their furniture, bags, bedding, clothes and other items into overloaded pickup trucks and vans, discarding kitchenware and other belongings that wouldn't fit.

"They called us at 5 a.m. and by 8 a.m. they had arrived with demolition equipment," said Bi Yan'ao, a 54-year-old migrant worker who has lived in Beijing for 13 years, describing what it was like to have to move out of his apartment in Daxing in just a few hours last week, clutching his belongings.

"In just one hour, they flattened a 100-meter (330-foot) -long stretch of land. How scary is that."

After that, Bi went to work with his relative at a shop selling cosmetics, but then they were told this week they had a couple of days to move out. On Monday evening, Bi stood in the store surveying the piles of boxes of merchandise around him, at a loss for what to do. He teared up.

"I want to cry," he said. "I don't have anything left now."

Last week, the city launched a 40-day campaign to clear out tenants from buildings deemed unsafe after a massive fire killed 19 people at apartments rented mainly by low-income Chinese migrant workers.

The eviction drive has been met with widespread anger and criticism online, with people saying it has laid bare the stark inequality in China that prevents poorer migrants who provide essential services in cities from enjoying the same status as the cities' residents. Under China's much-criticized household registration, or "hukou," system, Chinese migrant workers who can't obtain "hukou" in the cities they work in are often denied access to subsidized health care, education and social services.

Most tenants living in such homes on the outskirts of the city are factory workers, construction laborers, delivery people, drivers, cleaners, or hairdressers who come from poorer parts of China. Others run their own small wholesale businesses and shops selling cheap goods. Some have lived for years in the city with their children.

Along the same street that Bi was on, the owner of a luggage store described a similar experience, saying officials came and told her family to leave within days before the area was to be sealed off and demolished.

"People have feelings, we cannot accept this, to be asked to leave suddenly," said the store owner, who gave only her surname, Yang. "We've lived in Beijing for a long time and it's not about how much contribution we've made. In the end, we've ended up with not even a place to live, I feel sad. So deeply sad."

A group of intellectuals signing an open letter to the central government urging the city to stop the evictions and provide temporary housing for the migrants.

One of the signatories, independent political commentator Zhang Lifan, said anger over the evictions showed that rapid economic growth has resulted in a massive accumulation of wealth and also rising inequality and a sense of unfairness.

Zhang said many Chinese were quick to extend a hand to displaced migrants because they too had once been in their shoes, having worked their way up the socio-economic ladder to secure a decent middle-class life.

"When they saw that the migrants had been evicted, they realized that similar tragedies could have happened to them," Zhang said.

In the wake of the evictions, individuals and organizations have offered to help displaced migrants with free accommodation.

Wang Qi, an employee of a real-estate company in Langfang, a nearby city in Hebei province, said it would provide apartments as temporary homes for the migrant workers free of charge for up to three months. A posting online describing the offer said priority would be given to the sick, elderly and pregnant.

"Our boss himself was once a migrant worker in Beijing," Wang said. "But now that he has become wealthier, he wants to help out."

The Beijing Work Safety Administration has denied that the campaign is aimed at driving out low-income migrants, saying it covers unsafe housing across the city.

The Nov. 18 fire in Daxing district that killed 19 people, including eight children, was a "very painful" lesson for the government, and the cleanup campaign was aimed at not allowing such a tragedy to be repeated, a statement on the administration's website said.

It acknowledged that the evictions have caused "temporary difficulties" to people who have had to leave at short notice and it pledged to fix such problems.

The Beijing city government said last year it plans to cap the city's population at 23 million by 2020 and cut by 15 percent the number of people in six main districts.

China Labor Bulletin spokesman Geoffrey Crothall says the evictions are part of an ongoing effort by the government to redevelop land and capitalize on rising land prices. With the evictions, the government is effectively driving out the backbone of the city's labor force, Crothall said.

"Beijing needs migrant workers to do all the low-cost efficient service jobs that middle-class Beijingers depend upon," said Crothall. "But if you push them out of the city altogether, then there is going to be no one to do those jobs."

Good Housekeeping

Chinese pistache superb for color and longevity

By NORMAN WINTER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The flaming fall foliage of the Chinese pistache trees in Savannah are a visual testaments that they are indeed champions of color. The fiery oranges, reds, and yellows scream as if to say look at me. Believe me, you will, and if you are packing a camera, you will take a photo. They are not to be ignored.

Here at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens, we have several. It is almost reminiscent of a family in that we have the young or kids, the adult aged group both male and female and the grandparent which in reality is the Georgia State Champion.

The Georgia State Champion Tree stands one of the true testaments to one of our country's great plant exploration acquisitions, the Chinese pistache. This was discovered by plant explorer and horticultural hero if you will Frank Meyer. I am surprised that I walk by this tree every day and just now noticed the old USDA tag hanging down that says it was planted in 1938. We are approaching its 80th birthday.

The Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens got its start as a USDA Plant Introduction Station, and today many of those early obtainments are monolithic in size but growing confirmation of plant durability and performance. Few of us ever think about a Chinese pistache getting large enough for a tree house and in the case of this one perhaps the whole house.

TNS

This Georgia Champion Chinese pistache is at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens has an old USDA tag in lower right corner giving reference to being planted in 1938.

TNS

Chinese pistache trees may be male or female. Female trees produce red fruits that ripen to purple. Though not edible, birds find them delicious.

If you are not familiar with the Chinese pistache, botanically speaking it is known as Pistachia Chinensis. I first became acquainted with the Chinese pistache when it was selected as a Texas Super Star Winner. Texas fall color was hard to come by, but this tree was rock solid and reliable. In California, it has been used a rootstock for the delicious pistachio nut trees though other species have now been chosen.

The Chinese pistache is also drought tolerant. Just think it is recommended in places like New Mexico and Arizona and is native to Western China. When selecting your location keep in mind that it does not like wet winter feet so choose a site that drains well. It is cold hardy from zones 6 through 9 meaning from St. Louis to Orlando gardeners can relish the dark green leaves that become a blaze of fall color.

The Chinese pistache like a holly in that they are dioecious, meaning there are both male and female trees. The female will produce fruit that is a small red drupe turning blue when ripe which are attractive in all stages. If you are considering planting one close to a sidewalk, porch or driveway, you may want a male where-as out in the landscape you may find the fruit attractive. While they are not edible, the birds certainly will have a feast.

Gardeners are always wanting fast-growing trees, and though fast is not always good for selecting trees, the Chinese pistache certainly holds its own. It is not uncommon to see 2 to 3 feet of growth a year. Fall is a terrific time to plant. To grow yours choose a site in full sun. Set out nursery-grown plants, into well-drained moist fertile soil. Dig the hole 3 to 5 times as wide as the root ball but no deeper. The top of the rootball should be even with the soil surface. This will give you the best root expansion and in your landscape.

TNS

The Chinese pistache is one of the most dependable sources for fall color in zones 6-9.

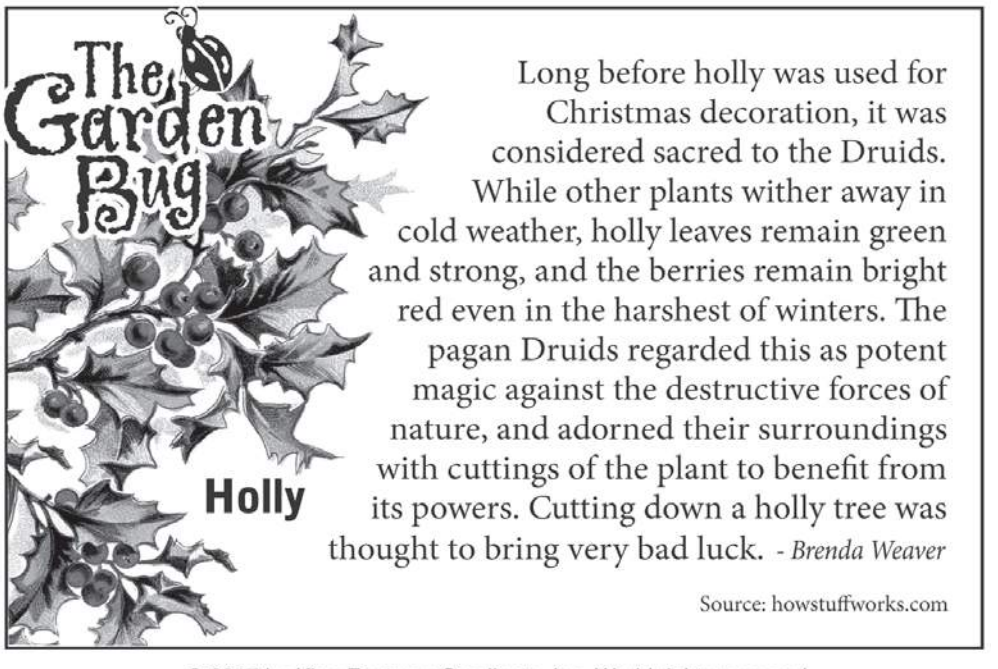
TNS

The Chinese pistache tree is drought tolerant and yields study wood able to withstand storms.

The Chinese pistache can look a little leggy or lanky in its early years but turns from the ugly duckling into the beautiful swan with a nice oval shape. In the second year prune lanky looking branches to encourage branch development. Feed in late winter with an application of an 8-8-8 fertilizer at 1 pound per 100 square feet of planted area. This is the area from the trunk to just outside the canopy.

The Chinese pistache is being widely used for city beautification, from city and college landscapes to public gardens like the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens in Savannah. I assure you they will do the same for your landscape too!

Norman Winter is director of the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, and author of "Tough-as-Nails Flowers for the South" and "Captivating Combinations: Color and Style in the Garden." Follow him at: @CGBGgardenguru


The Garden Bug
Holly
Long before holly was used for Christmas decoration, it was considered sacred to the Druids. While other plants wither away in cold weather, holly leaves remain green and strong, and the berries remain bright red even in the harshest of winters. The pagan Druids regarded this as potent magic against the destructive forces of nature, and adorned their surroundings with cuttings of the plant to benefit from its powers. Cutting down a holly tree was thought to bring very bad luck. - Brenda Weaver
Source: howstuffworks.com

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Life & Style

Ed's Bonita Park offers tranquil, forest-like tour

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

Tourists enjoy the scenery and fruits provided by Ed's Bonita Park located in Upper Navy Hill.

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Strolling through the hidden gem that is Ed's Bonita Park sometimes feel like seeing a unicorn is part of the package or that fairy-like creatures are lurking beneath the broad leaves of this botanical treasure. It just makes you want to take a deep breath, to savor the lush, authentic forest feel.

Ed's Bonita Park, a 45-acre park surrounded by beautiful, luscious green forest that highlights the beauty and serenity of the outdoors, has been in the Manglona family for over 10 years.

A co-owner of the park, Michael Manglona, only officially got on board with the family business this year but has already committed most of his time and effort into developing the woodsy refuge, making it more accessible to the public and tourists.

The tract of land where the garden sits has been with Manglona's family even before World War II. He said its rich luscious greenery isn't just a beautiful sight but holds a lot of history and has withstood the test of time and unpredictable weather.

Because the park withstood the war, many of the caves that surround the park are still littered with the belongings of Japanese soldiers and artifacts that date back to the war.

According to Manglona, with today's generation so attached social media, to electronics, and has basically lost touch with nature due to modernization, the park is intended to re-ignite that connection and provide a temporary escape for the soul.

The park doesn't only let people walk through the beautiful green forest; it also allows you to appreciate its ageless beauty while learning first-hand about the childhood of Manglona's mother, grandfather, and great-grandfather, who all grew up frolicking in that tranquil garden.

Ed's Bonita Park doubles as a farm and a stop for tourists in search of nature. During each tour, fresh fruits from the garden are given to guests to try as a part of the tour package.

According to Manglona, all fruits grown in the garden are 100 percent organic. "My father refused to use pesticides then and now. He always said, 'It's either us or the birds,'" said Manglona.

Guests also get to take part in *tilapia* fishing that Manglona claims is popular with families, especially children.

Ed's Bonita Park offers several packages like the jungle tour package, wedding sunset package, and the family package.

Manglona wishes to keep the location of the park exclusive for the safety of guests and the park's staff so for individuals interested in taking a tour, visit Ed's Bonita Park's Facebook page or call them at 783-3276 for information on their current promotions and for reservations.

In Celebration of Her New Life

Frances Louise Z. Elayda
"Ces"

Jun. 1, 1983 - Nov. 28, 2017
was called by our heavenly Father at the age of 34.

Novena Schedule:

	Date	Mass	Rosary
Wed	11/29/17	6:30PM	7:00PM
Thurs	11/30/17	6:30PM	7:00PM
Fri	12/01/17	6:30PM	5:00PM
Sat	12/02/17	7:00PM	6:30PM
Sun	12/03/17	6:00PM	7:00PM
Mon	12/04/17	6:30PM	7:00PM
Tue	12/05/17	6:30PM	7:00PM
Wed	12/06/17	6:30PM	7:00PM
Thur	12/07/17	-	10:30AM

Family & Friends Viewing:
Wednesday, December 06, 2017
12:30PM to 2:30PM
Guam Memorial Park Chapel,
Barrigada Guam

Last Respects:
Thursday, December 07, 2017
9:00AM to 1:00PM
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church
Yigo, Guam

Mass of Christian Burial
Thursday, December 07, 2017
1:00PM
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church
Yigo Guam

Interment will follow at Our Lady of Peace Memorial Gardens Windward Hills, Guam

In her new life, she will be greeted at the gates of heaven by her
Grandparents: Federico G. Decena, Nicanor & Margarita Bocago
Grandparents-In-Law: Alejandro & Ines Elayda, Peter & Leonora Quejado
Aunt & Uncle: Ma. Trinidad Bocago and Jorge Bocago
Brother-In-Law: Lawrence Elayda
Frances' love and memories will be missed and cherished forever in hearts of her
Husband: Orland Q. Elayda
Daughter: Xeria Paige Z. Elayda
Parents: Franciosa & Benjamin Bocago, Luzminda & Nicholas Ziergiebel
Brothers/ Sister, Spouses & Children:
Carlo Benjamin, Ariane, and Ayden Benjamin Bocago
Kenrick Benjamin Bocago
Parents-In-Law: George & Purita Elayda
Brothers/Sisters-In-Laws, Spouses & Children:
Vanessa & Rowland Roxas(Ryland Zavier, Zariah Renee)
Eileen & Oliver Gomez (Loren & Orion)
Survived by Numerous Family and Friends
in Guam Saipan, Philippines, and the United States

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

"For it is by Grace you have been saved, through faith- and this is not from yourself, it is the gift of God- not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

†David Mareham Magofna

Born April 08, 1966 and was called to Eternal Life with the Almighty Father on November 29th, 2017

He now joins his
Parents: Santiago Blas Magofna
Remedio Mareham Magofna
Siblings: Ricardo M. Magofna
Estelita M. Magofna
Santiago M. Magofna Jr.

His loving memories will forever live in the hearts of his Siblings, Common-Law Wife, and In-Laws.

He will also be missed by numerous Uncles, Aunts, Cousins, Nieces, Nephews and Friends.

Last respect will take place on Thursday, December 7, 2017. His remains will be transported from the CHCC Morgue to his residence in Tanapag.

Viewing will commence from 8:30am to 10:30am. At 11:00am, his remains will be escorted to the Veteran Cemetery for military funeral honors followed by the internment services.

Un Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghillisao yan Thank you for your presence, support and prayers.

"Fair Winds and Following Seas"

The family

Bag the mistletoe, cut the booze: Office parties sober up

NEW YORK (AP)—'Tis the season to keep that office holiday party from adding to the list of workplace sexual misconduct scandals.

With the names of Weinstein, Spacey and Lauer likely getting more mentions this year than Dancer, Prancer and Blitzen, employers are making sure their year-end staff merrymaking doesn't generate more inappropriate conduct.

There will be less booze at many. An independent business organization has renewed its annual warning not to hang mistletoe. And some will have party monitors, keeping an eye out for inappropriate behavior.

TV and movies often depict office parties as wildly inappropriate bacchanals or excruciatingly awkward fiascoes, if not, horrifyingly, both. But even a regular office party can be complicated because the rules people normally observe at work don't quite apply, which makes it easier for people to accidentally cross a line—or try to get away with serious misbehavior. Especially when too much drinking is involved.

According to a survey by Chicago-based consulting company Challenger, Gray & Christmas, only 49 percent of companies plan to serve alcohol at their holiday events. Last year that number was 62 percent, the highest number in the decade the firm has run its survey. The number had been going up each year as the economy improved.

"As soon as you introduce alcohol at an off-site activity, peoples' guards are dropped," said Ed Yost, manager of employee relations and development for the Society for Human Resource Management based in Alexandria, Virginia. "It's presumed to be a less formal, more social environment. Some people will drink more than they typically would on a Friday night or a Saturday because it's an open bar or a free cocktail hour."

The Huffington Post reported Friday that Vox Media, which runs sites including Vox and Recode, won't have an open bar this year at its holiday party and will instead give employees two tickets they can redeem for drinks. It will also have more food than in years past. The company recently fired its editorial director, Lockhart Steele, after a former employee made allegations of sexual harassment against him.

A survey by Bloomberg Law said those kinds of safeguards are common: while most companies ask bartenders or security or even some employees to keep an eye on how much partygoers are drinking, others limit the number of free drinks or the time they're available. A small minority have cash bars instead of an open bar.

The National Federation of Independent Businesses recommends all of those steps, and adds another that might seem obvious these days: don't hang mistletoe. It's been giving those suggestions for several years.

Yost said he always gets a lot of requests for advice in planning and managing these events, but he's getting even more of them this year. He said he'll be spending his corporate holiday party the way he always does: patrolling hallways, checking secluded areas and trying to watch for people who look like they are stuck in an uncomfortable situation—for example, inappropriate touching or a conversation that's taken a bad turn. If they're visibly uncomfortable, he'll intervene and plan a later conversation with the person responsible.

Patti Smith, Salman Rushdie talk literature, Trump

NEW YORK (AP)—Patti Smith's long, slender fingers trembled just thinking about being a writer during the presidency of Donald Trump.

"I don't know how people are even able to contain themselves and contain their rage," Smith said, "I always felt, even if I didn't agree with whomever was our president, I felt that I could still walk tall wherever I want. I still was myself. But there's something about this current administration where I feel tainted as a human being."

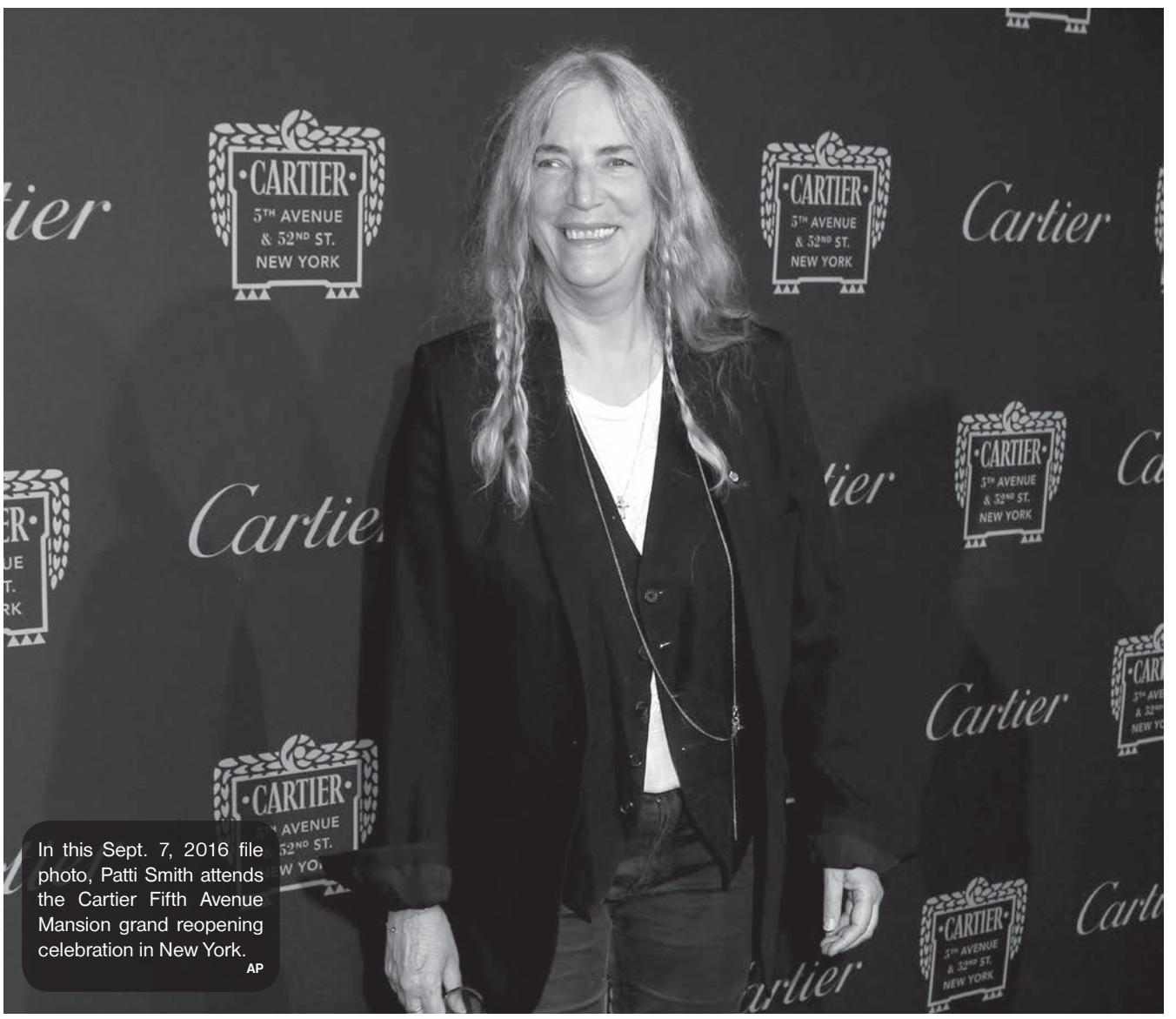
On Monday night at the Whitney Museum in Manhattan, Smith and Salman Rushdie commiserated about Trump and otherwise compared notes on everything from the writing process to their favorite painters. They were guests at the annual "Chairman's Evening" hosted by the MacDowell artist colony and were interviewed by Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist and MacDowell chairman Michael Chabon. MacDowell has a long history of bringing artists together and previous Chairman's Evening pairings have included Martin Scorsese with Lin-Manuel Miranda and Stephen Sondheim with Paul Simon.

Rushdie and Smith share liberal politics, a love for Manhattan and a willingness to try different art forms. Smith is a poet and rock musician who won a National Book Award for her memoir "Just Kids." Rushdie is author of the acclaimed novel "Midnight's Children" and one of the rare literary figures who shares a songwriting credit with a major rock band. Rushdie collaborated with U2 on "The Ground Beneath Her Feet," the title lifted from Rushdie's rock 'n' roll novel of the same name. At the Whitney, he joked about being approached by other rock stars who wanted to work with him on music, including a drunken Alex James of the band Blur.

"I've got this idea," Rushdie recalled James slurring, "I'll write the words, you write the music."

"That didn't happen," Rushdie added.

Smith and Rushdie do have very different approaches to writing. Rushdie, who has been touring in support of his novel "The Golden House," said he doesn't write on the road and hasn't figured out his next book. Smith responded that she loves writing away from home, especially at a neighborhood café, and has multiple projects going. "It's like a horse race, whichever one hits the finish line, which often isn't the one I'm being paid for," she said.



In this Sept. 7, 2016 file photo, Patti Smith attends the Cartier Fifth Avenue Mansion grand reopening celebration in New York. AP

Former Fox News producer claims O'Reilly broke agreement

NEW YORK (AP)—An ex-producer has sued former Fox News Channel personality Bill O'Reilly, claiming he violated a confidentiality agreement related to a 2002 settlement reached over his alleged mistreatment.

The woman, Rachel Witlieb Bernstein, said O'Reilly defamed her by falsely suggesting publicly that claims against him were motivated by politics and money. Bernstein had complained about abuse, non-sexual in nature, by O'Reilly when she worked at Fox.

She said Fox and O'Reilly misled the public by claiming that no one complained to a Fox hotline about his behavior. She said she talked repeatedly to bosses about O'Reilly's actions, but there was no hotline in place at the time of the incidents. The lawsuit was filed Monday in federal court in Manhattan.

O'Reilly's lawyer, Fredric S. Newman, said his client has never mentioned Bernstein's name in any context.

"Today's lawsuit has absolutely no merit, and Mr. O'Reilly will respond aggressively in court," Newman said.

Opera waited year to act on accusation against conductor

NEW YORK (AP)—A big question remains after renowned conductor James Levine was suspended from the Metropolitan Opera amid accusations of sexual abuse: Why did it take so long for the company to act after it was informed by police that he had been accused of sexually abusing a teenage boy?

The Met was in crisis mode Monday after The New York Times published interviews with three men who said that Levine, 74, had sexually abused them when they were teenagers.

The opera company said after the report Sunday that it was suspending its relationship with Levine, its music director from 1976 through 2016. As music director emeritus, Levine was still conducting and had been scheduled to lead upcoming productions, including a planned New Year's Eve gala featuring Puccini's "Tosca." He conducted Verdi's "Requiem" Saturday—a live, global radio broadcast that could well prove to be his last Met appearance. The first report of the allegations, in the New York Post, was published not long after the performance.

Those quick actions, however, came more than a year after a police detective in Illinois first reached out to the opera.

The detective from the department in Lake Forest, Illinois, first contacted the Met in October 2016 and said she was investigating an allegation made by a New York man, Ashok Pai, who reported that Levine sexually abused him in Illinois when he was 16.

The Met's general manager, Peter Gelb, said he briefed leaders on the opera company's board about the investigation and also spoke to Levine, who denied the allegations. But at the time the Met took no action.

"The Met did not wish to interfere with the police investigation and thought it was the purview of the Illinois police department to follow through and question those who could corroborate (the) allegation," the opera's spokeswoman, Lee Abrahamian, said.

That police investigation slowed last fall, but the Lake County state's attorney's office spokeswoman, Cynthia Vargas, told The Associated Press on Monday that it was still active.

Possibly complicating the decision for the Met last year on whether to act against Levine was the fact that it had—for decades—been asked by reporters about persistent, unproven stories about his sexual habits and had always written them off as the product of an overactive rumor mill.

Jimmy Kimmel's baby son has successful second heart surgery

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jimmy Kimmel's 7-month-old son, whose heart condition has made the late-night host an unlikely player in American politics, had a successful second round of surgery on Monday.

ABC announced the surgery in a statement, and said he will take time off from "Jimmy Kimmel Live" to be with his family.

Chris Pratt will be the first of several guest hosts filling in for the 50-year-old Kimmel, followed by Tracee Ellis Ross, Neil Patrick Harris and Melissa McCarthy.

The baby, Billy Kimmel, had been scheduled to have the surgery in October, but it was postponed because colds in the Kimmel household made doctors wary.

Billy was born to Kimmel and wife Molly McNearney in April with heart defects that required one surgery immediately after his birth, and a second surgery months later.

The experience pushed Kimmel into politics. He used his show as a platform for families' access to equal medical care, and has spoken out against congressional attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Kimmel has since become a target of ire for Republicans including Donald Trump Jr. and U.S. Senate candidate Roy Moore, who tweeted to Kimmel last week, "If you want to mock our Christian values, come down here to Alabama and do it man to man."

Kimmel replied: "Sounds great Roy—let me know when you get some Christian values and I'll be there!"

Ed Sheeran tops Spotify's 2017 list with 6.3 billion streams

AP
In this Dec. 1, 2017, file photo, Ed Sheeran performs at Jingle Ball at The Forum in Inglewood, Calif.

NEW YORK (AP)—The Grammys may have dissed Ed Sheeran, but Spotify says he is the most streamed artist of the year.

The streaming service announced Tuesday that Sheeran tops its 2017 list with 6.3 billion streams. He also has Spotify's biggest album of the year with "Divide," streamed 3.1 billion times, and the top song with "Shape of You," logging 1.4 billion streams.

Sheeran received two Grammy nominations last week, but was shut out of the major categories, including album, song and record of the year.

No female acts were in the Top 5 most streamed acts of the year: Sheeran is followed by Drake, The Weeknd, Kendrick Lamar and The Chainsmokers. Rihanna is the most streamed female performer of the year, followed by Taylor Swift and Selena Gomez.

Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee's "Despacito" remix, costarring Justin Bieber, was the second-most streamed song of the year. The original version of the song was ranked third.

Drake's "More Life," which he didn't submit for consideration at the upcoming Grammy Awards, is the second-most streamed album of the year. Lamar's "DAMN.," The Weeknd's "Starboy" and Post Malone's "Stoney" round out the Top 5.

Spotify says hip-hop increased by 74 percent in the last year, while Latin music jumped 110 percent.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Christiane Amanpour to help fill Charlie Rose gap on PBS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Christiane Amanpour is helping PBS fill the gap created by Charlie Rose's exit. On an interim basis, public TV stations will be able to air Amanpour's weekday public affairs program that originates on CNN International. "Amanpour on PBS" was to begin airing Monday on New York's PBS station and be available to other public TV stations starting Dec. 11. The program will air on PBS stations after it shows on CNN International. Amanpour's half-hour show is to be paired with a second public affairs program in the one-hour shot long held by Rose's interview show. The other program has yet to be announced. PBS cut ties with Rose after several women accused him of unwanted sexual advances. He was fired by CBS.

Director Bryan Singer departs Queen biopic mid-production

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Director Bryan Singer has left the Queen biopic "Bohemian Rhapsody" in the middle of production. A representative for Twentieth Century Fox Film Corp. says Monday that Singer is no longer the director of the film. The Hollywood Reporter reported Monday that Singer failed to show up to the London set on a number of occasions. Actor Rami Malek who stars as Freddie Mercury in the film complained to the studio about Singer's unprofessionalism on behalf of the cast. Studio representatives declined to comment on the circumstances surrounding Singer's departure or future plans for the film, which is currently slated for a Dec. 2018 release. Singer, 52, is best known for directing the "X-Men" films and "The Usual Suspects." Representatives for Singer did not immediately respond to request for comment.

'House of Cards' to resume taping minus star Kevin Spacey

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Production is resuming next year on the sixth and final season of "House of Cards." Taping of the political drama was halted in October amid sexual misconduct allegations against star Kevin Spacey. Netflix Chief Content Office Ted Sarandos told a conference Monday of the decision, Variety reported. In November, Netflix said it wouldn't be involved with the series if Spacey remained. Producer Media Rights Capital suspended him. The eight-episode season will focus on co-star Robin Wright. No release date has been announced. Netflix has said the decision to end the series was made before Spacey was accused of trying to seduce a teenager in 1986. He said he didn't recall it, but allegations by other men followed. Spacey's rep has said he is seeking unspecified treatment

Jay Leno buys $13.5M mansion in Newport, Rhode Island

NEWPORT, R.I. (AP)—Former "Tonight Show" host Jay Leno and his wife have purchased an oceanfront estate in Newport, Rhode Island. The Boston Globe reports Leno, who grew up in Andover, Massachusetts, paid $13.5 million for the mansion called Seafair. It has eight bedrooms and 11 bathrooms and comes with a pool, a tennis court and a private beach. Lucky for Leno, who collects cars, it also boasts a six-car garage. The house sits on 9 acres (3.64 hectares) and was built in 1936. It was previously owned by Denver mining heir Verner Zevola Reed Jr., who was an American banker and diplomat. Reed served as U.S. ambassador to Morocco from 1981 to 1985.

Blake Lively hurt during production of 'The Rhythm Section'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Production has been halted on the action-thriller film "The Rhythm Section" after actress Blake Lively was injured on set. Producers said in a statement Monday that Lively hurt her hand while performing an action sequence. Filming was temporarily suspended. Producers said it would resume as soon as possible. Lively plays a woman seeking revenge after her family is killed in a plane crash. Jude Law also stars. The adaptation of the Mark Burnell novel is set for release in 2019.

Teen girl feels pressure from society to have sex

DEAR ABBY: I'm a teenage girl who has always heard and seen on TV and in movies that there's pressure from guys to have sex. That may be true, but I feel there is also pressure from society. I never thought I would feel like that when I got to high school, but now I do. It hurts, and I am writing this for all the girls who feel the same way I do about it. I have been struggling with it for a few days, and it is messing with me a lot.

I know I don't want to have sex yet, but I still feel like I have to. "Tom" really wants to, but he isn't a virgin. It scares me, and while he isn't pressuring me, I feel like there is a boulder on my shoulders. If you know how I can stop feeling like this, please let me know.

PRESSURE FROM SOCIETY

DEAR PRESSURE: A surefire way to feel less pressured into doing something you're not ready for would be to stop assuming Tom's sex drive is YOUR responsibility.

Remember that although many teenage girls have been pressured into having sex, a sizable number have not. If you choose to wait until you are older, that's your privilege, because regardless of what you're seeing on TV and in the movies, "everyone else" ISN'T doing it.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have two amazing children, and while they do require a lot of attention, I feel like I'm getting the short end of the stick. My wife works third shift, while I work 8 to 5. She's off two days out of two weeks, but even then, she's on call it seems like all the time. When I try to make time for us, things come up more often than not and it gets pushed aside.

We used to have time for each other, and we are talking about having another child. How do I find the time for one more child when we don't have enough time for each other? I'm beginning to think she doesn't want to be around me anymore, or she's no longer in love with me or that she's cheating on me. I don't want to believe it, but I don't know what else to think. What should I do?

NEEDS TIME TOGETHER

DEAR NEEDS TIME: Have you told your wife all the things you are telling me? If you haven't, place it at the top of your agenda. Feeling the way you do, you should be talking about improving your marriage before enlarging your family and the responsibilities that go along with it. Not only should you and your wife be scheduling alone time together, you should also consult a licensed family therapist to reopen the lines of communication between the two of you.

DEAR ABBY: Could you please tell me what's proper in a situation like this? My husband and I are always invited to his family's holiday celebrations. When we accept, the invitation is also extended to my mother and sister. If my husband and I are unable to attend, should my mother and sister still go or consider their invitation canceled?

JAN IN SAN CLEMENTE, CALIF.

DEAR JAN: If the invitations that were extended were accepted by your mother and sister, and they are expected, they should attend.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

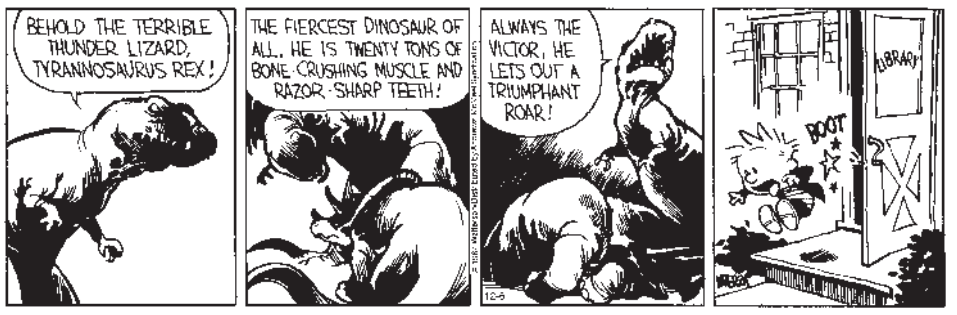
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


BEHOLD THE TERRIBLE THUNDER LIZARD, TYRANNOSAURUS REX!
THE FIERCEST DINOSAUR OF ALL. HE IS TWENTY TONS OF BONE-CRUSHING MUSCLE AND RAZOR-SHARP TEETH!
ALWAYS THE VICTOR, HE LETS OUT A TRIUMPHANT ROAR!
BOOT
LIBRARY

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Dear Santa, How have you been? How is Mrs. Claus? How are the reindeer and elves?
How's your weather been? We have had a mild winter here so far.
I LIKE TO BEGIN WITH A LITTLE IDLE CHITCHAT BEFORE I MAKE WITH THE BEGGING
JIM DAVIS 12-6

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

IT LOOKS FAKE.
IT'S FINE, KATY.
WE'RE A FAMILY. IF ONE OF US IS ALLERGIC TO REAL CHRISTMAS TREES, WE'LL ALL MAKE THE SACRIFICE.
AND WE'RE HAPPY TO, RIGHT?
WHAT IF WE GOT CLAYTON ONE OF THOSE BUBBLES?
I LOOKED INTO IT. A TREE WAS CHEAPER.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CAN YOU RECOMMEND ANY GOOD EXERCISES TO BUILD MY ROTISSERIE DORSAL MUSCLE?
YOU DON'T HAVE A ROTISSERIE DORSAL MUSCLE.
GEE, IT SHOWS THAT MUCH? MCA

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Cover
4 Compass dir.
7 Margarita garnish
8 Bundle of wheat
10 Craze
11 Eton rival
13 1976 film about Woody Guthrie
16 Ninny
17 Incline
18 Pop
19 High point
20 Bigwigs
21 Astronomer Carl
23 Loafers, e.g.
25 Director Ephron
26 James of "The Godfather"
27 Santa — winds
28 College officials
30 Proof letters
33 Hit song by Simon & Garfunkel
36 Obsess
37 "Adam Bede" author
38 Jack who ate no fat
39 Right angles
40 Frequently
41 Rebel Turner

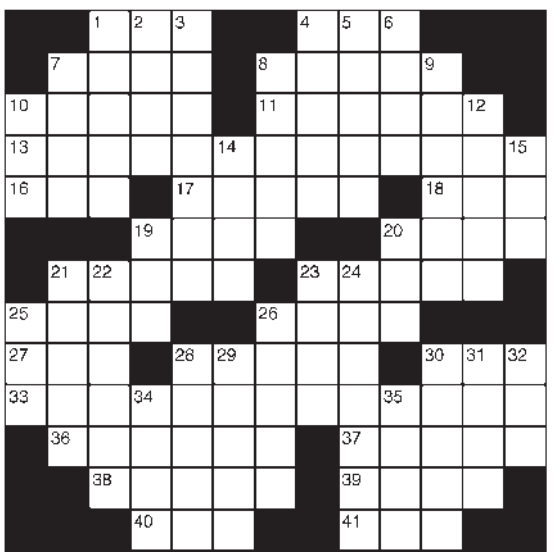
DOWN

1 "Peanuts" blanket carrier
2 Poker player's words
3 World's lowest lake
4 Pointy
5 Suit fabric
6 Count counterpart
7 Cambodia neighbor
8 Trembled
9 Restaurant fan
10 CEO's deg.
12 Concludes filming
14 Spanish custard
15 QB's stats
19 Links org.
20 Part of some German names
21 "— a gun!"
22 Pal of Porthos
23 Hourglass fill
24 Fading star
25 "Unh-unh"
26 Insertion mark
28 Overshadow
29 Really annoy
30 Patchwork bedcover
31 Adam's grandson
32 Banned insecticide
34 Big fair, for short
35 Stewpot

Solution time: 23 mins.

S	I	A	B		A	H	A		C	O	W	S		
O	R	C	A		G	Y	M		A	H	O	Y		
L	I	A	R		O	M	I	S	S	I	O	N		
O	M	I	C	R	O	N		A	B	O	D	E		
			A	I	D		A	R	A					
U	S	U	H	P		C	O	M	A	H	A	N	S	
S	U	N			S	K	Y			O	O	H		
O	M	E	L	E	T	S		F	A	L	S	E		
			E	L	Y		A		R					
M	A	U	V	F		C	O	M	N	I	R	J	S	
O	M	N	I	V	O	R	E		S	O	M	A		
M	I	T	E		R	E	B		E	S	P	Y		
A	D	O	S		B	O	A		N	E	S	S		

Yesterday's answer 12-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lindsay Price, 41; Judd Apatow, 50; Tom Hulce, 64; JoBeth Williams, 69.

Happy Birthday: Keep track of your spending this year. A mistake in calculations could leave you falling short. Stay focused on the best way to handle situations stemming from the past. Do your best to clean your slate of the buildup that accumulated due to too many burdens and poor choices. Much can be accomplished if you configure a plan and stick to it. Your numbers are 6, 14, 25, 28, 33, 42, 49.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* An important relationship will suffer if you get into an emotional spat. Turn a blind eye to the flaws you see in someone and reflect more on your own. Personal awareness and growth will bring you better results. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Make positive changes at home or to the way you live. Taking charge of your investments and life goals will help you make wiser choices with regard to how you earn, handle and spend your money. Don't be fooled by get-rich-quick schemes. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Self-improvement is featured along with relationships. If you make a unique offer, you will pique someone's interest, but before doing so, make sure you can produce what you promise. A faulty plan will make you appear unreliable. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Put your time and energy into handling your financial affairs, boosting your income and working toward advancement. Update your resume and check the online job market, or try applying your skills and qualifications more diversely. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* It's best to be secretive until you know exactly where you stand. Whether dealing with friends, colleagues or the powers that be, listen carefully and formulate exactly what you want and need to move forward. Personal gains look promising. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Refuse to let anyone answer for you or take over your responsibilities. Make your own decisions, be innovative in the way you handle others, and stay secretive about your future plans. Preparation will be the key to success. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Stay focused on doing a better job of making changes to the way you handle your responsibilities. Short trips will lead to new ideas and possibilities. A business or personal partnership will help improve your current situation. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* A business trip or event will offer you new information that could help you reinvent how you use your skills and qualifications. The people you encounter will spark your imagination. Don't take risks that can lead to injury. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Take action and do your best to resolve issues or concerns you have. Helping others physically will bring about change and turn you into a lifesaver. The rewards will be greater than anticipated. Personal improvements are encouraged. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Pressure will build and conversations will turn into arguments if you aren't careful in choosing the right words to express your feelings. Listen carefully and be prepared to back away from a no-win situation. Secrets are best kept for now. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Emotional spending will lead to added stress. Refuse to let your anger prevail. Use your intelligence, and allow your ability to make a difference rise to the surface. If you love what you do, you will do a good job. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* A situation is likely to become explosive if you have overspent or signed a document that binds you to a commitment you can't fulfill. Tread carefully when dealing with situations that can be costly financially, emotionally and physically. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are helpful, appealing and friendly. You are energetic and imaginative.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			7	9	1			
		4				8		
		7				6		
	2	5	9	7	8	1	6	
	3						8	
	8			4			2	
	4			1			7	
	6						1	
		9	6	8	3	2		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	9	4	5	6	7	2	8	3
8	7	5	3	2	1	9	4	6
3	2	6	4	9	8	7	1	5
4	6	1	2	8	9	5	3	7
9	5	8	6	7	3	4	2	1
2	3	7	1	4	5	6	9	8
6	1	3	9	5	2	8	7	4
7	4	9	8	1	6	3	5	2
5	8	2	7	3	4	1	6	9

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE Solution: 9 letters

H	N	O	R	G	A	N	I	Z	E	D	C	O	M	R
A	E	A	T	R	I	B	E	S	U	N	N	I	E	I
B	T	L	I	N	R	R	S	D	L	I	U	G	M	V
S	S	U	P	S	Y	U	P	O	W	E	R	Q	B	A
B	U	B	L	O	S	C	O	U	S	E	H	S	E	L
U	L	N	A	I	N	U	O	I	K	U	Y	U	R	S
R	T	A	E	U	P	I	R	R	N	R	T	L	S	R
G	A	T	Ⓓ	N	T	A	T	G	I	O	E	E	R	E
E	N	S	Ⓝ	I	Q	O	A	N	L	P	I	I	E	D
R	R	I	Ⓐ	T	D	R	N	N	A	E	C	M	W	N
M	E	E	Ⓛ	E	Y	E	Z	O	A	T	O	A	O	A
A	T	G	F	U	R	A	I	D	M	M	S	N	L	M
N	S	E	T	U	R	K	M	E	N	Y	S	N	L	M
Y	A	S	N	A	K	L	A	B	R	E	V	O	O	O
T	E	Y	E	K	R	U	T	P	Y	G	E	D	F	C

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Autonomy, Balkans, Commanders, Constantinople, Curb, Defeat, Eastern, Egypt, Europe, Followers, Germany, Guilds, Habsburg, Hungary, Iraq, Istanbul, Land, Links, Members, Organized, Osman, Over, Power, Raid, Rivals, Ruling, Russian, Siege, Society, Suleiman, Sultan, Sunni, Syria, Tanzimat, Tribes, Troops, Tulip, Turkey, Turkmen, Unite

Yesterday's Answer: Advertised

Purchase the NEW **Treasury 30** in time for the last days! Order online at WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 130 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF MIKE'S CORPORATION

Notice is hereby given that MIKE's CORPORATION is hereby dissolving the corporation effective Dec 4, 2017.

All persons having claims against the corporation are requested to present them in writing and mail to:
Eun Hie Shin
P.O. Box 500977
Saipan, MP 96950

This announcement will serve as a notice to all parties concerned of the legal dissolution of the said corporation.

Gemkell Saipan Corporation

is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Boutique Supervisor, Bottega Veneta (1)
High School Diploma or a GED with one (1) to two (2) years of related or applicable work and management experience in luxury retail environment. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Must be familiar with the POS System.

Interested applicants may send their applications or resumes via email to gemkell_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, resumes or application documents must be submitted not later than **5:00PM on Friday, December 15, 2017.** Background checks will be required prior to employment.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-DPS/SOR-032(A)(B)
SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JANUARY 08, 2018 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE CLASS "F" MID-SIZE PICK-UP TRUCK WITH OFF ROAD PACKAGE (A) AND ONE MID-SIZE SPORT UTILITY VEHICLE (B) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-425 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT A. GUERRERO
COMMISSIONER, DPS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

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PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-DLNR/DFW-025
SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: DECEMBER 22, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"BOAT CHARTER TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ANTHONY T. BENAVENTE
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP18-CHCC/KCHC-003
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 16, 2017 TIME: 11:00AM

"GROUNDS KEEPING SERVICES KAGMAN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

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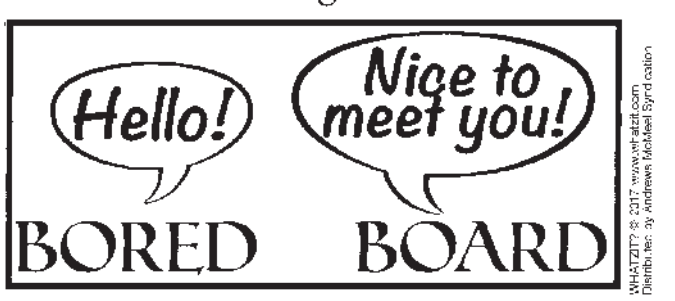

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Warriors erase 21-point deficit, top Pelicans

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Stephen Curry had 31 points and 11 assists but sprained his ankle late in the game, and the Golden State Warriors came back from 21 points down late in the first half to defeat the New Orleans Pelicans 125-115 on Monday night.

Klay Thompson scored 22 points and Kevin Durant and Draymond Green each had 19 for the Warriors, who won their fourth straight. After it was over, Curry went for X-rays on his right ankle.

Jure Holiday scored 34 and E'Twaun Moore added a career-high 27 for the Pelicans, who lost for the fourth time in five games.

DeMarcus Cousins added 19 points and 11 rebounds -- but also had seven turnovers—before both he and Durant received their second technical fouls of the game while bickering in the final minutes, resulting in ejections for both players.

Trailing 69-49 at halftime, the Warriors opened the third quarter with a 15-0 run, with Durant scoring six on two dunks and a fadeaway, while Thompson and Green each added 3-pointers.

From then on, the game was tight, with the Pelicans only briefly rebuilding a lead as large as 11 on Holiday's back-to-back 3s late in the third quarter.

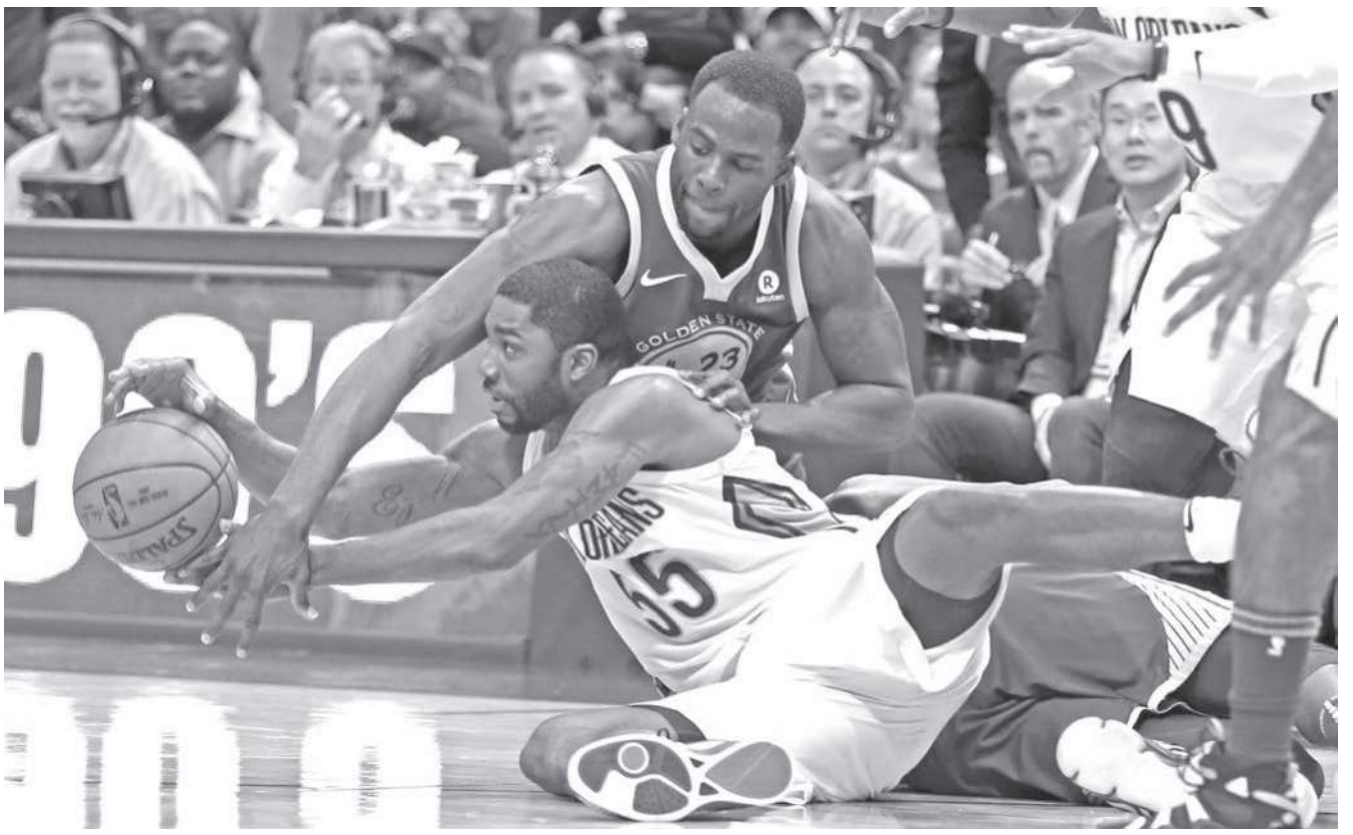
Golden State regained the lead at 96-95 on Andre Iguodala's steal and breakaway dunk with 8:31 left.

New Orleans briefly went back up 95-92 when Darius Miller hit a 3 while being fouled by Curry for a four-point play, but Nick Young responded with consecutive 3s to give Golden State the lead for good, and Green added a pair of late 3s to help seal it.

The first half featured dramatic swings in momentum.

New Orleans led by 13 late in the first quarter after a 6-0 mini-run featuring Holiday's dunk and Cousins' 3, but the Warriors responded with a 17-3 surge to take a 37-36 lead early in the second quarter.

Curry scored the first six points of the spurt, starting with his 21-foot jumper as he was fouled by Tony Allen.



AP
New Orleans Pelicans guard E'Twaun Moore (55) and Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green (23) battle for a loose ball in the second half of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans, Monday, Dec. 4, 2017. The Warriors won, 125-115.

Cavaliers 113, Bulls 91

In Chicago, Dwyane Wade and Kevin Love each scored 24 points, LeBron James had 23 and the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Chicago Bulls for their 12th straight win.

Backed by a trio of stars, the Cavaliers matched their longest winning streak since the 2014-15 season.

Wade made 9 of 13 shots in his first game in Chicago since agreeing to a buyout with his hometown team in late September. Love grabbed 13 rebounds and made 8 of 13 from the field. James finished 9 of 15 with seven rebounds and six assists. The Cavaliers shot just under 52 percent.

Kris Dunn led Chicago with 15 points. Robin Lopez and Justin Holiday scored 14 apiece as the Bulls fell to 3-19 with their ninth straight loss.

Celtics 111, Bucks 100

In Boston, Kyrie Irving had 19 of his 32 points in the second half, helping offset a 40-point night by Giannis Antetokounmpo as Boston held off Milwaukee.

Al Horford added 20 points, nine rebounds and eight assists. Jayson Tatum chipped in 17 points to help Boston improve to an NBA-best 21-4. The Celtics have won five of their last six.

It was the third 40-point game this season for Antetokounmpo. Khris Middleton added 19 points while Eric Bledsoe had 18 points.

Hornets 104, Magic 94

In Charlotte, Kemba Walker had 29 points and seven assists in his return from a shoulder injury, Dwight Howard reached a rebounding milestone and Charlotte beat Orlando to snap a four-game losing streak.

Walker, who missed the previous two games, was the spark plug all night for the Hornets and became the first player in franchise history with 200 career 20-point games. He made all 14 free throw attempts.

Howard had 12 points and nine rebounds, moving past former Charlotte coach Paul Silas and Dikembe Mutombo for 19th on the all-time NBA rebounding list.

Knicks 115, Pacers 97

In Indianapolis, Thaddeus Young scored 20 points to lead seven Indiana players in double figures as the Pacers routed short-handed New York.

Bojan Bogdanovic scored 19 points and Victor Oladipo added 16 for the Pacers, who led by 26 at half and 95-65 after three quarters

The Knicks were without leading scorers Kristaps Porzingis (25.8 ppg) and Tim Hardaway Jr. (17.8 ppg) for a second consecutive loss. Porzingis is dealing with a sprained right ankle and illness and Hardaway has a lower left leg injury.

Michael Beasley led the Knicks with 13 points.

Suns 115, 76ers 101

In Philadelphia, Devin Booker scored 46 points and TJ Warren added 25 to lead Phoenix over Philadelphia.

Booker made 17 of 32 shots and hit four 3-pointers, including three in the fourth quarter that helped the Suns put away a Sixers team that played one of their worst games of the season. Booker scored 32 points on 11 of 17 shooting in the second half.

Joel Embiid had 22 points and 12 rebounds and Ben Simmons, battling an illness, scored 20 points. JJ Redick led the Sixers with 25 points.

Grizzlies 95, Timberwolves 92

In Memphis, Marc Gasol scored 21 points, Tyreke Evans added 16—including two key free throws with 12.7 seconds left—and Memphis snapped an 11-game skid with a victory over Minnesota.

Memphis, which hadn't won since Nov. 7, had to wait a bit longer after Evans' free throws. On the ensuing possession, Jimmy Butler's off-balance, 26-footer over Andrew Harrison bounced off the backboard and grazed the rim, snapping the Grizzlies skid.

Butler led Minnesota with 30 points, his second-straight game with at least 30. Taj Gibson finished with 14 points, while Andrew Wiggins and Jeff Teague added 12 points each.

Mavericks 122, Nuggets 105

In Dallas, Harrison Barnes scored 22 points, Dennis Smith Jr. added 20 and Dallas beat short-handed Denver.

Six Dallas players scored in double figures as the Mavericks earned their second straight wire-to-wire win after beating the Clippers by 26 on Saturday. Dallas had its highest scoring game of the season and has won five of eight since starting 2-14.

Will Barton led Denver with 23 points, Jamal Murray added 22 and Gary Harris had 21.

Denver played without two-thirds of its starting frontcourt as Paul Millsap (left wrist injury) and Nikola Jokic (sprained left ankle) remained out.

Nets 110, Hawks 90

In Atlanta, Caris LeVert scored a season-high 17 points, Rondae Hollis-Jefferson had 16 points and Brooklyn used a strong third quarter to grab momentum and beat Atlanta.

Brooklyn, avenging Saturday's home loss to Atlanta, had everything working in its favor in the second half. It began the third trailing by one but went on a 17-0 run to go ahead 70-54 on DeMarre Carroll's 3-pointer. The lead swelled to 29 in the fourth as the Nets earned their largest win of the season.

Dennis Schroder finished with 19 points and Kent Bazemore and DeAndre' Bembry each had 13 for Atlanta, which dropped to 5-18, second-worst in the NBA.

Jazz 116, Wizards 69

In Salt Lake City, the Utah Jazz looked lottery bound two weeks ago after losing 8 of 10. They've rebounded with six straight wins, including their most lopsided victory of the season.

Alec Burks scored 27 points for his third straight game with 20 or more, and the Jazz blew out the Wizards 116-69 on Monday night.

"We played really well," Jazz coach Quin Snyder said. "I don't know (about) `best,' but it was really good. ... We were crisp on the offensive end, for sure. We were also pretty disciplined defensively, which is a good mindset on both ends of the floor.

Burks is on his best string since three straight 20-point games in February 2014. He helped the Jazz put on a show during the first 24 minutes to lead 64-30 at halftime, their second-biggest output in a half this season.

Gulati will not seek 4th term as US Soccer president

NEW YORK (AP)—U.S. Soccer Federation president Sunil Gulati will not seek a fourth term, announcing his decision two months after the Americans failed to qualify for next year's World Cup.

Former national team players Paul Caligiuri, Eric Wynalda and Kyle Martino are among the candidates for the election in February. USSF vice president Carlos Cordeiro also is running, as are Boston lawyer Steve Gans, New York lawyer Michael Winograd and Paul LaPointe, Northeast Conference manager of the United Premier Soccer League. Kathy Carter, president of MLS's marketing subsidiary Soccer United Marketing, is considering a bid.

The 58-year-old Gulati, who announced his decision Monday, has been a driving force in the USSF for more than 30 years. He helped put together the successful bid that brought the 1994 World Cup to the U.S. and served as executive vice president and chief international officer of the U.S. organizers for the tournament. He also was deputy commissioner of Major League Soccer from its launch until 1999; and president of Kraft Soccer Properties, which operates the New England Revolution of MLS.

Gulati was a unanimous pick in March 2006 to succeed Bob Contiguglia, who served two terms. Gulati replaced Chuck Blazer on FIFA's executive committee in 2013 and continues to serve on the renamed FIFA Council. He also is chairman of the joint U.S-Mexico-Canada bid committee hoping FIFA will pick North America to host the 2026 World Cup.

Meanwhile, a Brazilian businessman testified on Monday that he participated in a bribery scheme to buy the influence of FIFA soccer officials to win commercial rights to major tournaments, a decision he later regretted.

"I made a mistake," Jose "Jota" Hawilla said at the U.S. conspiracy trial of three former South American soccer officials. "I committed an error, and I regret it very much."

Testifying in Portuguese through an interpreter, the 74-year-old witness described how his marketing business and two other firms joined forces to pay a $10 million bribe to Jeffrey Webb, then a FIFA vice president and president of CONCACAF, the governing body for soccer in North America, Central America and the Caribbean, to help secure the rights for the Copa America in 2016. Webb has pleaded guilty to racketeering charges and is awaiting sentencing.

Rangers officials travel to meet with Ohtani

TEXAS (AP)—Officials with the Texas Rangers, including general manager Jon Daniels, have traveled to Los Angeles for a meeting with Japanese two-way star Shohei Ohtani, according to multiple baseball sources.

The sources were inconclusive on if the Rangers met with Ohtani and agent Nez Balelo on Monday or flew in ahead of a Tuesday face-to-face, but were definitive in saying that the Rangers have a meeting scheduled with the prize of the free-agent market and are "all-in" on landing him.

Ohtani trimmed his list of suitors to seven and reportedly has already met with the San Francisco Giants. The San Diego Padres, Los Angeles Dodgers, Los Angeles Angels, Seattle Mariners and Chicago Cubs reportedly are the others in the Ohtani sweepstakes.

Daniels and another Rangers official did not return messages seeking confirmation on where they stand with Ohtani, a star right-handed pitcher and left-handed-hitting slugger in Nippon Professional Baseball.

He was posted Friday by the Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters but had already started the process of finding his MLB team by asking the 30 clubs to present information on seven topics.

Among them was their evaluation of Ohtani as a pitcher and a hitter, and the Rangers have discussed ways they can help him be a two-way player in the majors. A source said that Elvis Andrus makes an appearance in a Rangers video presentation, speaking Japanese in a light-hearted cameo.

Ohtani has until 10:59 p.m. Dec. 22 to pick the team he wants. It's possible that he decides in advance of the deadline and is introduced next week during the annual winter meetings.

AP
In this Nov. 19, 2015, file photo, Japan's starter Shohei Otani pitches against South Korea during the first inning of their semifinal game at the Premier12 world baseball tournament at Tokyo Dome in Tokyo.

The Rangers have taken steps to fill out their rotation as they wait on Ohtani. They signed right-hander Doug Fister last week to a one-year, $4 million deal and have agreed to a multiyear deal with left-hander Mike Minor, who could transition back to starting after spending 2017 as an effective reliever for the Kansas City Royals.

Aside from his talent, Ohtani is coveted because of how affordable he will be. Because he is only 23 years old, he is required to sign under the rules for international free agents younger than 25.

The Rangers can offer him the largest bonus ($3.53 million) among the finalists, who must agree to a $20 million posting fee, but Ohtani will be brought into an organization on a minor-league contract. Once he is added to an active major-league roster, he will be paid the minimum salary of $545,000.

Should the Rangers miss on Ohtani, they could pursue a number of international players who were made free agents last week as a result of punishment handed out to the Atlanta Braves for transgressions in Latin America.

Meanwhile, reliever Tony Barnette has signed a $1.5 million, one-year deal to stay with the Rangers.

Barnette, who had a 3.75 ERA over 103 relief appearances the past two seasons, had become a free agent when the Rangers last month gave him a $250,000 buyout instead exercising their $4 million club option for the right-hander.

Texas also Monday signed right-hander Chi Chi Gonzalez to a minor league deal with the Rangers only days after the team didn't tender him a major league contract for next season.

Gonzalez, outfielder Anthony Gose, left-hander David Hurlbut and infielder Christian Lopes all signed minor league deals with invitations to major league spring training.

Barnette and Matt Bush were the only Rangers relievers with at least 50 appearances in each of the last two seasons. Barnette was 2-1 with a 5.49 ERA in 50 games last season. After six seasons in Japan, the 34-year-old Barnette signed a two-year deal with the Rangers in December 2015.

Gonzalez, the Rangers' first pick in the 2013 amateur draft, missed last season because of a ligament tear in his elbow and had Tommy John surgery July 24. He was briefly a free agent after not being offered a major league contract before Friday's non-tender deadline.

World Cup of Golf heading back to Australia's Sandbelt

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—The World Cup of Golf will be played in Australia's Sandbelt for the third consecutive time, with the PGA Tour announcing The Metropolitan Golf Club in Melbourne will host the tournament next November.

"The World Cup of Golf has been a celebrated and valued tradition in the game for decades, and the International Federation of PGA Tours is proud to see that tradition continue in 2018 with the best players from around the globe convening at The Metropolitan," PGA TOUR Commissioner Jay Monahan said in a statement. "Golf in the Sandbelt region speaks for itself."

The tournament, which has been held 58 times across 25 countries since 1953, will feature 28 two-person teams representing their countries from Nov. 21-25.

The highest-ranked player in each team will get to select his playing partner. The 2018 event will feature the same format as 2016, including two days of foursomes and two days of fourballs.

Australians Adam Scott and Jason Day won the 2013 World Cup played at Royal Melbourne, and Soren Kjeldsen and Thorbjorn Olesen won at Kingston Heath in 2016.

The 2018 edition will mark the sixth time the World Cup of Golf has been staged in Australia.

Steelers rally to stun in Bengals, 23-20

CINCINNATI (AP)—No matter how high the stakes, how big the deficit or how late in the game, Ben Roethlisberger and his tough-to-catch playmakers always find a way to leave the Bengals wondering what just happened.

Chris Boswell kicked a field goal on the final play shortly after Antonio Brown caught a 6-yard touchdown pass—taking a hit to the head while landing in the end zone—and the Pittsburgh Steelers pulled off another improbable comeback against the stunned Bengals, rallying for a 23-20 victory Monday night.

Down 17-0 early, the Steelers (10-2) extended their best start since 2004 in a physical game with a couple frightening injuries. Brown's touchdown tied it at 20 with 3:51 to go -- safety George Iloka was penalized for hitting him in the head after the catch. Boswell won it with 38-yard field goal, his second straight winner in the closing seconds.

Both teams know the script.

"It sort of reminded me of the playoff game—what was it, two years ago?" Steelers defensive end Cameron Heyward said. "It's sort of the best reality TV show out there—better than the Kardashians."

Two years ago, the Steelers came to Paul Brown Stadium and pulled out an improbable 18-16 playoff win set up by Cincinnati's fumble and personal fouls on Vontaze Burfict and Adam "Pacman" Jones. Boswell won that one with a 35-yard kick with 14 seconds left.

Desperate for a win to salvage their playoff hopes, the Bengals (5-7) still couldn't find a way to beat their Ohio River rival, not even after getting off to the big early lead. They've dropped six straight and nine of 10 against Pittsburgh.

"Very disappointing," said Bengals receiver A.J. Green, who had two touchdown catches in the first half. "We had it."

Nope. They never do, not against the Steelers.

"We've got a no-blink group," coach Mike Tomlin said. "We've been in this situation before, and in this stadium before."

The hard-hitting game was full of personal fouls, penalties and injuries that could have a long-term effect, especially for the AFC North leaders.

Pittsburgh lost leading tackler Ryan Shazier to a back injury in the first quarter. The linebacker was taken off the field on a cart and taken to a hospital for evaluation. Tomlin had no details about his injury or his prognosis after the game. ESPN reported that Tomlin went to the hospital after the game to check on Shazier.

"Ryan is one of the biggest players on this defense," linebacker Vince Williams said. "When we need a big play, he's one of the guys we look to. It's going to be tough."

Bengals linebacker Vontaze Burfict was carted off in the fourth quarter after JuJu Smith-Schuster leveled him with a high hit, then taunted him by walking over him.

There were four penalties for unnecessary roughness, one for unsportsmanlike conduct, one for roughing the passer and another for taunting. The Bengals self-destructed with 13 penalties for a team-record 173 yards.

The Steelers remain tied with New England for best record in the conference. They host the Patriots on Dec. 17.

Bottled up by Cincinnati's aggressive defense in the first half, Pittsburgh's playmakers made the difference down the stretch, just as they have all season. They rallied to beat the Packers 31-28 last Sunday on Boswell's 53-yard field goal on the final play, which was set up by Brown's incredible sideline catch.

After missing practice last week with an injured toe, Brown ran gingerly in pregame warmups and had another big game, finishing with 101 yards in eight catches.

Dizon leads NMI's charge in 'Hell'

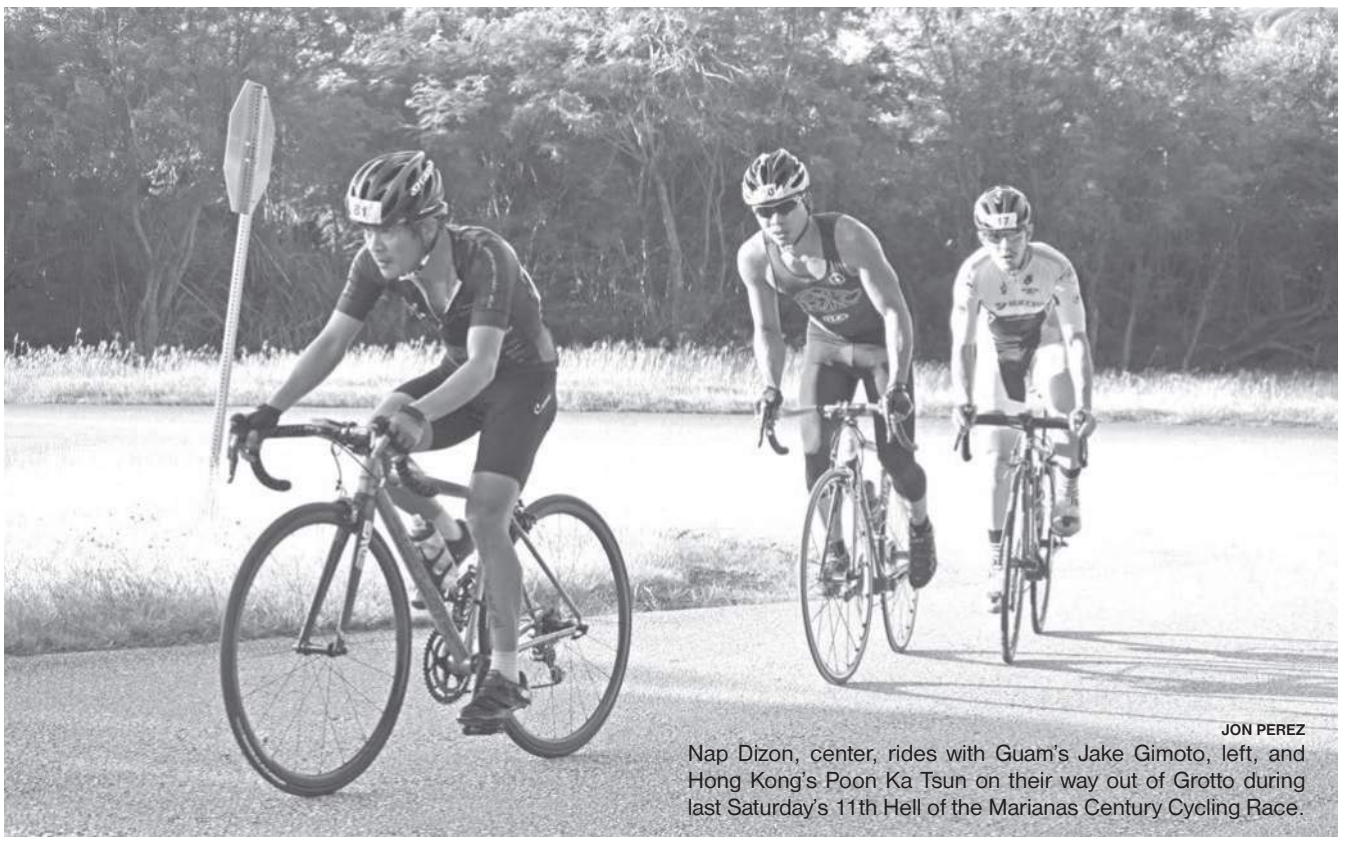
By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Nap Dizon emerged as the CNMI's top finisher in the 11th Hell of the Marianas Century Cycling Race held last Saturday.

The veteran cyclist, who traded his MTB to a road bike, came in 20th overall behind a host of pro/elite riders to finish third in the non-pro division with his 4:02:05. Guam had 1-2 finish in the non-pro riders with Jonathan Martin clinching the top spot after submitting 3:44:42 and compatriot Jake Gimoto recording 4:01:59. Martin was 14th overall and even had a sprint battle to the finish line against Japanese pro Yamato Kanematsu (3:44:41).

Martin broke away early against Gimoto and Dizon as he was part of the peloton heading to the Bird Island-Grotto area. He failed to keep pace with the pros, but established a good lead against his non-pro opponents to take the top honors. Gimoto, on the other hand, was the 20th rider that completed the turn at Kingfisher, while Dizon was 22nd and the two riders battled it out going back to the finish line of the extended race.

This year's course, which started and ended a few meters away from the main entrance of the Marianas Resort & Spa, was 15 kilometers longer than the original layout as organizers chose to make a slight change due to the ongoing road construction going up Capital Hill.



JON PEREZ
Nap Dizon, center, rides with Guam's Jake Gimoto, left, and Hong Kong's Poon Ka Tsun on their way out of Grotto during last Saturday's 11th Hell of the Marianas Century Cycling Race.

In the women's non-pro road bike division, the Top 3 finishers were Guam's Kristina Ingvarsson (4:15:12), Hong Kong's Hiu Tung Tsang (4:29:20), and South Korea's Lee Myungsook (4:48:05).

Gretchen Druliner was the 40-44 women's age group winner with a time of 5:15:42, while South Korea's Oh Sang Mi was 30 minutes behind.

Wynn Brillo raced in the U19 division and completed the course in 4:14:25, while J.C. Libut was third in the men's 30-39 division (4:36:24) won by China's Zheng Yi (4:03:25) with South Korean Jeong Jaehyeong settling for second (4:08:36).

Dennis Bautista (4:47:05) and Rio Jacob (5:39:33) came in second and third behind South Korea's Kim Jungyoung (4:12:23) in the 40 to 44 age group, while multi-sport athlete Tyce Mister was third in the men's 50-54 division. Mister recorded 5:00:49 to finish behind Hong Kong's Nip Wai Wun (4:19:46) and South Korean Choi Yongil (4:49:15).

Mark Isip clocked in 5:05:02 in the men's 50-54 MTB class to beat fellow CNMI bets Norlo Jacosalem (5:31:50), Noel Altamirano (5:58:09). Carlos Aguilar (6:00:42), and Gerardo Panagsagan (6:29:43).

Tae Kim Sung (4:29:23), Ju Choi Sung (4:49:35), and Suk Lee Ki (5:44:43) completed a South Korean sweep in the male 20-29 age group, while their compatriot Park Jinhwan ruled the men's 45-49 (4:20:45). Guam's Noel Ponseca (4:25:05) and South Korean Kim Chulmin (4:34:24) placed second and third behind Park in the 45-49 age group, while Kelvin Kai Leung Ho (4:48:01), Manny Sitchon (5:18:52), and Wong Lip For (6:04:05) were the Top 3 placers in the 55-59 age division.

Japan's Suehiro Arizumi topped the 60-and-over class after posting 4:11:37, while NMI's Willy Barbo came in at second (4:41:48) and another Japanese, Kazuo Terae (6:49:13), was ranked third.

LIFTER

From Page 28

al board. The 27-year-old Morea had successful lifts of 129kg in snatch and 155kg in the clean and jerk for a 284kg tally to sweep the gold in his category. Fiji's Qaqa Poama was a far second at 110kg in the snatch and 127kg in the clean and jerk for a 237kg total, while Moses Ezekiel of Nauru settled for the bronze with 226kg (100kg snatch, and 126kg clean and jerk).

Santos' best lifts of 110kg in the snatch, and 136kg in the clean and jerk could have at least earned him a silver medal had he not faltered in the snatch. As expected, he was clearly frustrated with his performance.

"It's the worst competition of my life. I bombed out in my snatch and hit just 120kg in the clean and jerk. Clearly, it wasn't my day, but it was still a good experience for me," Santos said, adding that he might skip next year's Micronesian Games in Yap as he is busy preparing for the Praxis next year. Santos won gold and silver medals in the 2015 Micronesia Weightlifting Invitational in Guam and the 2014 Micronesian Games in Pohnpei.

In other results, PNG earned two more gold medals in weightlifting, courtesy of sisters Thelma and Dika Toua with the latter establishing a new Pacific Mini Games record in the clean and jerk after a 110kg lift in the women's senior 53kg division.

Dika Toua had 80 in the snatch for an overall 190kg to sweep the gold, while younger sister Thelma lifted 65kg in the snatch and 85kg in the clean to claim the 48kg division.

The weightlifting contest will conclude today so Team CNMI's next competition will be in athletics and 3x3 basketball (men's).

Meanwhile, more than 5,000 athletes, officials, and guests gathered at the Korman Stadium to celebrate the grand opening ceremony of the Mini Games.

Performers from the host nation provided a show, while Vanuatu Prime Minister Charlot Salwai declared the Mini Games open. The ceremony then concluded with a nine-minute fireworks display.

SWEEP

From Page 28

in the boys division game last Monday at the GES field, while Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School and William S. Reyes Elementary School split their matches.

In the girls division, WSR pulled off a 2-1 win over GTC at the latter's home field in San Roque.

GTC drew first blood in its debut match after Pia Ngewakl found the back of the net in the 26th minute. However, the host squad failed to keep the shaky lead, as Rizza Relucio saved the day for WSR with her two straight goals, making the equalizer in the 40th minute and the go-ahead goal nine minutes later.

After the sorry loss in the first game, GTC redeemed itself in the second match after nosing out WSR in the boys division, 1-0. Pia's brother Nolan registered the lone goal for GTC in the ninth minute.

Meanwhile, GTC was eyeing win No. 2 yesterday as it faced MCS in the second game at the Hopwood Middle School Field. In the curtain-raiser, Mt. Carmel and GTC's girls teams collided. Results of both matches were unavailable at press time.

Two more boys division games were scheduled yesterday with WSR hosting Koblerville at 4:45pm and Kagman and Garapan playing at the Chacha Middle School Field at 3:45pm. In the girls division, the defending champion WSR eyed its second win yesterday as it dueled Koblerville in the 3:45pm match.

Saipan Little League Baseball meeting Saturday

Saipan Little League Baseball president Mike Borja is calling on all managers and coaches fielding teams in the upcoming season to attend a meeting at 9am on Dec. 9, Saturday, at the pavilion behind the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Borja said he called the meeting to determine how many teams would take part in the 2018 season that is tentatively set to open on Feb. 3.

"This meeting aims to know how many teams will be competing this season. This would help us in planning the season and setting the schedule of games," Borja told *Saipan Tribune* in a telephone interview.

Borja added that the SLLB would introduce the Minors division for the 8 to 9 year-olds, while the Majors is for kids ages 10 to 12. The Juniors is for 13 to 14 year olds, while the Seniors is for the 15 to 16 age group. Games will be held every Saturdays and Sundays.

The Falcons are the defending champions in the Seniors and Juniors, while the Braves are the reigning titlists in the Majors. The NSA Braves squeezed out a 7-6 decision against the Falcons to win the Majors division, while the Falcons clinched their third straight Junior division title with an 8-2 win over the Comets. The Falcons' Seniors division squad completed a back-to-back with a 4-3 edging of the Enforcers.

Meanwhile, Joining Borja on the SLLB board are vice president A.J. Murig, secretary Malcolm Omar, treasurer Annie Flores, and players agent Piding Tenorio. ***(Jon Perez)***

GREGOIRE

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Miyawaki and Randy Steele, who made it to the semis after a walkover win against Samantha and Simon Sergio.

While Richard and Maria needed only two sets to march into the finale, it took Elliot and Anthony three sets to stun No. seed Grace Choi and A.J. Hudkins, 6-3, 4-6, 10-8, and move into the championship game. Elliot and Anthony earlier swept Japan's Chiharu and Kosuke Sato, 6-1, 6-4 to set up a semis date opposite Choi and Hudkins, who got an outright semis berth after a bye in the opening round.

In other results, No. 2 seed Martin Jambor and Leith Poole pulled off an upset over No. 1 and father-and-son duo Eric and Joshua Abragan in the men's doubles 4.0 finals, 6-3, 7-5. Jambor and Poole entered the finals after a 4-2, 4-1 win over Christopher Aninzo and Clayton Izuka, while the Abragans defeated Andy Cho and Alex Park in the other semis pairing, 4-1, 4-0.

Eric Abragan also played in the men's 4.0 singles and this timed triumphed in the round-robin competition. He took the division crown after downing Edwin Simbulan, 6-3, 7-5, and Gani Cortez, 7-5, 7-5. Cortez settled for the runner-up honors following his 7-5, 6-4 victory against Simbulan.

Mayling Colombo and Vickie Izuka were unbeaten, too in the round-robin contest in the women's 3.0 doubles to join the champions circle in the annual tournament. Colombo and Izuka won over Ami Miyawaki and Chiharu Sato, 7-5, 4-6, 10-8, and Lina Villagomez and Maro Villanueva, 6-3, 6-1. Miyawaki and Sato placed second following a 6-2, 6-2 win against Villagomez and Villanueva.

In the men's 3.0 singles, Ambet Omampo was the champion as he topped Arnel Pascua, 6-3, 6-4.

In the men's 4.0 singles, Ken Imaya prevailed against two other players. He downed Randy Steele last Saturday, 6-0, 6-0, and had a similar shutout win over Simbulan last Sunday to clinch the division crown.

Imaya also played in the men's doubles 4.0 doubles, but he and Jeff Bristol lost to No. 1 seed Don Castillo and Ronnie Lacbayo in the finals, 6-4, 6-4. Castillo and Lacbayo marched into the title game following a 6-3, 4-6, 10-7 semis victory against Ronnie Decena and Bong Gamamb, while Imaya and Bristol swept No. 2 Roy Banados and Noel Biglete in the other Final Four pairing, 6-3, 7-6 (4).

11th Hell of the Marianas Century Cycling Race

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

The Philippines' Ronald Lomotos heads toward the Bird Island Lookout during last Saturday's 11th Hell of the Marianas Century Cycling Race.

A police officer, right, directs the peloton to Grotto where they will make their turnaround.

Guam's Jonathan Martin makes his way to the steep climb out of the Bird Island-Grotto stage.

South Korea's Kim Chulmin heads to the southern part of the course.

Hong Kong's Ng Chau Yu remains in high spirits after a climb out of Grotto.

China's Lu Junjie, left, bikes ahead of another participant as they head down to the Bird Island Lookout.

Japan's Naoya Kanzawa heads to the southern portion of the course.

Hong Kong's Lee Chi To steers his bike after making the turnaround at the Grotto.

Warriors erase 21-point deficit, top Pelicans

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Rangers officials travel to meet with Ohtani

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Sweep for KES; MCS draws GES

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Koblerville Elementary School was perfect in the opener, while defending champion Mt. Carmel School settled for a draw against Garapan Elementary School during their debut in the 2017 NMIFA Fall U11 Interscholastic Soccer League.

Koblerville dominated Kagman Elementary School, 5-0, in the girls division match at the former's turf last Thursday, while the Umangs also prevailed against the visiting team in the boys game, 8-1.

Monico Claridades powered the Umangs to the easy win over Kagman after scoring a hat trick. Anthony Austria added a pair, while Abraham Jay Saralu, Jared Villagomez, and Keith Torres contributed one each. Keosi Alokoa drilled the lone goal for Kagman.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

It's 4 versus 1, as Garapan Elementary School players and Mt. Carmel School's Markus Toves, second left, chase the ball during the second half of their game in the 2017 NMIFA Fall U11 Interscholastic Soccer League last Monday at the GES pitch.

Koblerville registered six of its total goals in the first half to set the tone in the match, while Kagman averted a shutout loss when Alokoa hit the board in the second.

In the girls division, Koblerville also got off to a good start, firing four goals against none from Kagman. Rosie Saralu delivered back-to-back goals for the Umangs, while Megan Elayda and Tanaya Willy also scored in the first half for the host team. Elayda then added one more in the second half to cap Koblerville's impressive debut.

In other results, Mt. Carmel School had a scoreless draw against Garapan

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Gregoire, Steele win battle of junior players

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Junior players Maria Gregoire and Richard Steele bested five other pairs to take the mixed doubles 4.0 division title in the 9th Annual TanHoldings Tennis Classic last Sunday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan court.

Gregoire and Steele clinched the division crown following a 7-6, 6-3 victory over fellow junior players Hye Jin Elliot and Anthony Gregoire in the finals. Maria and Steel were the No. 1 seed players in the group and drew a bye in the opening round for an outright semis berth. In the Final four, the eventual champions registered a 6-3, 6-1 triumph over Ami

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Richard Steele serves to Seung Jin Paik in their game in the boys U14 singles event of the 9th Annual TanHoldings Tennis Classic during the opening week of the tournament at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan court. Steele teamed up with Maria Gregoire in the final week and they won the mixed 4.0 doubles title.

Lifter Santos falls short in Mini Games

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Raymond Santos missed the medal podium as competitions in the 10th Pacific Mini Games kicked off yesterday at the Korman Stadium in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

The 26-year-old Santos and Angel San Nicolas suited up for Team CNMI in the weightlifting contest with the former entered in the men's senior 62kg division and latter in the 92kg weight class. San Nicolas competes today. Santos failed in his snatch at 100kg, but completed a clean and jerk of 120kg at the Epauto Adventist High School, falling short in his attempt to at least salvage a bronze medal.

Baru Morea topped Santos' division, clinching the ninth weightlifting gold for Papua New Guinea as the Southwestern Pacific nation grabbed an early lead on the med-

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VANUATU 2017 PHOTO

Weightlifter Angel San Nicolas is the CNMI flag bearer during the opening ceremony of the 10th Pacific Mini Games last Monday at the Korman Stadium in Port Vila, Vanuatu.